



J. Pack Sculp.

Come, catch the Laugh—it will fly from me to you.  
A Hundred more may laugh as well as Two.

# THE LAUGHER;

OR,

## *The ART of JESTING:*

SHEWING

*Every Man in his Humour, from the Throne  
to the Cottage;*

In particular

Of Kings, Queens and Princes.	Of Lawyers.
Of Noblemen and Am- bassadors.	Of Love and Lovers.
Of Gentlemen and Ladies.	Of Husbands and Wives.
Of Gallants and Upstarts.	Of Women.
Of Soldiers.	Of Dress.
Of Travellers.	Of Jesters.
Of Politicians.	Of Servants.
Of Gamesters.	Of Fools.
Of Popes and Prelates.	Of Countrymen and Clowns.
Of Poets and Musicians.	Of Thieves.
Of Physick and Physi- cians.	Of Sharpers.
	Of Beggars.
	Of Drunkards.
	Of Noses, &c. &c.

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*And be that tells a Fool a Tale,  
Had need to find him Ears.*

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M.DCC.LV.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence few'd.]

you.  
Two.



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E D I T O R  
TO THE  
R E A D E R.

**I** Think it cannot appear strange to the Judicious, if any such will take the Trouble to peruse these antique Pieces of Morality and Wit, that they now re-appear, after lying, as it were in Ashes, for so many Years: Nor do I imagine  
A 2 . . . . . they

iv *To the READER.*

they will appear, as the Phrase is, like the Ghosts of what they were, notwithstanding they come to Sight in an Age so rife with Authors of all Kinds; Disputants, Poets, Wits, Humorists, and Conundrum-Makers; for, if I am not mistaken, there is a Dearth of Judgment runs thro' the Whole.

Perhaps some may think me impertinent for re-printing this Work, as having no Right to it; but I can silence that Objection, when I declare it is but Duty in me, since the Author or Collector was my great Grandfather, (who publish'd it first in 1610, and re-printed it, with Additions, in 1614;) and I am bound by Gratitude to preserve the Reputation of my Predecessors, and their Offspring from perishing.

If

To the READER. v

If any Jest contain'd in this Collection should be found in any other Jest-Book, the Reader may be assur'd it has been taken from mine; for there is not one Joke printed in it, but what was collected by my great Grandfather upwards of **ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY YEARS AGO**, *the Original of which I have now in my Possession.*

It is not worth while to give a History of this old Gentleman, for there is not any Thing remarkable in his Life, being famous for neither Honour nor Vice; for he was neither knighted or hang'd, courted or despis'd — He was only a **POOR WIT**, and had no Maintenance but what his Brain produc'd; which, as the Custom is to this

A 3 Day,

vi *To the READER.*

Day, with what he could pillage from other People's Labour, supported him to the Age of Seventy-four. When his Wit and Judgment gave Place to Infirmities, his Friends forsook him: He dy'd, his Works were forgot, and his Body was buried by the Parish.

ADIEU.



T H E

THE

P R E F A C E.

SINCE the natural Inclination of our corrupt Affections, courteous and indifferent Reader, is enamored of nothing so much as of Variety (the Eye as it were being

viii The PREFACE.

being become the Soul's Sovereign) and this Variety so governed by a phlegmatick inconstant Tutor, that Things of the least Value (if various) are of high Price: Nay, almost like Diamonds (of many Carats) boundless in Estimation: And since of all the Varieties with which we feast and surfeit our Minds, Fests (though cloathed in foolish, filthy, or unfit Garments) have got the most eminent and precedent Place in Mens Souls; some prizing their Friends less than their Follies, and some giving more for a little Gall of Wit than for all the Honey of learned Wisdom, what can a Man better present, both to give Contentment and some Cure to these false Shapes, than this Treatise? which, having been collected

## The PREFACE. ix

lected many Years \* ago, and generally received with all the Applause and Liking due to so witty a Speaker, is now for your better Recreation newly augmented and adorned with many excellent and Note-worthy ESSAYS of WIT.

*In this (which is indeed a mere RHAPSODY OF WIT) Men may learn how to jest, without Hurt; how to exercise Wit, without Slander; and how to be harmlessly pleasant, without Ribaldry, or the Filth of unwash'd Words: Each Man having before his Eye a Precedent of Modesty and Goodness,*

\* This Preface was wrote to the Edition printed at London, in the Year 1614.

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ness, so seasoned with these Sales, or good Salts of Virtue, that no Mirth can appear Worthy which wants their Seasoning. It was before good, and then esteemed; it is now somewhat better, and therefore needs but beg to like what hath and will be allowed.

FAREWELL.



THE

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## THE LAUGHER.

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*Of Kings, Queens and Princes.*

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**A** Portuguese, who had basely deliver'd up a Fort to the King of Spain, gain'd thereby a Commission in his Army; and, being shortly after with the King in an Action against his Countrymen, the Besieg'd very bravely defended their Rampsarts: Upon which this Portuguese said to the King, *Your Majesty may remember I did not give you Half this Trouble. No, reply'd the King, and therefore I wish the Governor of this Castle had your Commission.*

B

A Nobleman

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# THE LAUGH E.R.

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*Of Kings, Queens and Princes.*

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**A** Portuguese, who had basely deliver'd up a Fort to the King of Spain, gain'd thereby a Commission in his Army; and, being shortly after with the King in an Action against his Countrymen, the Besieg'd very bravely defended their Rampsarts: Upon which this Portuguese said to the King, *Your Majesty may remember I did not give you Half this Trouble.* No, reply'd the King, *and therefore I wish the Governor of this Castle had your Commission.*

B

A Nobleman

A Nobleman complain'd to his King, That certain Enemies had vow'd to put him to Death, and therefore begg'd His Majesty's Protection, which the King readily granted : But shortly after he repeated his Complaints to the King ; that, notwithstanding his Protection, he still went in Fear of his Life. To which His Majesty reply'd, *My Lord, I am very sorry for it ; but it is not in my Power to protect you from Fear.*

A great King and Conqueror, shewing his Nobles and Officers what vast Heaps of Treasure he had gained from his Enemies, was highly applauded by all around him ; and one among the rest, said, *What a prodigious Happiness this would be, if a Man was to live for ever. That's a foolish Saying,* answered the Monarch ; *for, had Men been immortal, I had never been a King.*

*Philip the First, of Spain,* seeing a Faulcon kill an Eagle, immediately ordered his Head to be cut off ; saying, *Let none presume to oppose his Sovereign.*

An Arch-Deacon of a small Town in *Spain*, having a Quarrel with his Shoe-maker, in his Rage slew the Mechanick ; whereupon his Son ran to the Governor, to demand Justice of  
the

the Murderer : But the Deacon, having great Friends, was enjoin'd no other Pennance for the Fact, than that he should not be suffer'd to say Mass for a Year to come. This Punishment the Plaintiff thought not sufficient for his Crime ; he therefore took the Opportunity of the King's passing that Way, of throwing himself at His Majesty's Feet, and renewing his Suit for Justice. In vain the Deacon's Friends pleaded, he had already suffer'd the Pennance the Governor thought proper to enjoin him. The Shoe-maker still persisted, and, pressing into the King's Presence, there told His Majesty the whole Fact. The King, struck with the Villainy of the Deed, and the Partiality of the Punishment, ask'd the Shoe-maker if he thought himself able to kill the Deacon ? Yes, quoth he, *with all the Ease in the World.* Do so, said the King, and that I hope will satisfy you. The Shoe-maker next Day laid wait for the Deacon ; and, as he was going in Procession, drew a Dagger and stabb'd him. Being seiz'd, and carry'd before the King to answer the Offence, the King cast this Sentence upon him ; *That I may not accuse the Governor, that try'd the Deacon, of Partiality or Injustice, I here command that the Shoe-maker shall not presume, on Pain of Death, to make any Shoes for a whole Year.*

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A Queen ask'd a Country 'Squire, when his Wife would be brought to Bed : He reply'd, *Whenever it shall please your Majesty.*

The Queen of *Spain*, boasting of the great Advantages she should reap by the Discovery of the Gold Mines in the *Indies* ; one who stood by, ask'd her, Who of her Subjects, could she imagine, would venture so far. She reply'd, *The Covetous will soon find the Way to it.*

A King of *France*, who was famous for Wisdom, was ask'd by one of the Princes of the Blood, whether he thought a wise Man might marry ? He answer'd, *Why, pray what Opinion have you of me ?* The Prince, with great Complaisance, reply'd, *Your Majesty is certainly the wisest and best qualified Person in the World, and none fitter to fill the Throne you sit upon.* *Why then,* said the King, *if that is your Opinion, you might have spar'd your Question, for you know I have a Wife.* *But,* said the Prince, *I can't help thinking your Majesty has often repented.* *That's an unjust Imagination,* reply'd the King ; *since I am mark'd all over Europe for my uncommon Affection to my Queen.* *Yes,* said the Prince, *and all over France,*

## The LAUGHER. 17

France, for your Love for the Countess of  
\* \* \* \* \*

*Alonso de Valentia*, having yielded to *Ferdinando*, King of *Spain*, the Fort of *Samora*, it pleased the King (at his Entry thereinto) to view the King of *Portugal's* rich Wardrobe there; where, having survey'd a good Space, all his Royal Robes and Jewels, he refused in the End to ransack it, neither would he bestow any one Garment or Jewel upon any of his Followers: Whereupon a Gallant then standing by, thus said unto him, *Pleaseth your Majesty, the King of Portugal hath not forborne any Rapine that ever he could attain unto, either upon your Grace's proper Goods, or any of your Subjects; and will your Majesty then deign to deal thus civilly with him?* Whereunto the King answered, *All that I desire of my Nephew of Portugal, is but to take away the bad Conceits and Opinions of his Will, and not the Attires of his Person.*

The Duke of *Nazareth*, coming to the Court to do his Duty to the Emperor, in most rich and sumptuous Robes, and his Liveries most gallant: The Empress seeing him out at a Window, said; *It seemeth that Nazareth comes rather to be seen of us, than to see us.*

A Moor

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A Moor King of *Granada*, call'd *Chiquito*, yielded the said Town to *Ferdinando*, King of *Spain*, upon Composition; and being march'd away with his Troops a Mile or two from thence, made a Stand, and from a high Hill turned back to view the Town, as his last Farewel thereunto: And beholding it, he fell a weeping, and said, *Better had I lost my Life then so fair a Town.* His Mother hereunto answered, *You do well Son, to weep like a Woman, seeing you did not defend it like a Man.*

*Ferdinando*, King of *Spain*, ask'd *Avennamer*, (a Moor King, his Prisoner) how he lived so long, being a Man of great Years? He answered, *I never stood when I might sit, I marry'd late, I was a Widower betimes, and I mean never to marry more.*

*Salladine*, the Moor (that last of all won *Jerusalem* from the Christians) dying, commanded a Winding Sheet to be borne in Pomp at his Funeral, upon the Point of a Launce, and a Herald to pronounce aloud these Words: *Salladine, great Lord of Asia, of all his Wealth and Glory, only this Winding Sheet he carrieth away with him.*

*Ferdinando,*

Ferdinando, King of *Spain*, made choice of a Gentleman, who was none of the best of Sight, to employ him in an especial Affair; but the Queen entreated the King to chose some fitter Person, namely, one of a better Sight: The King would not but employed him, who very happily effected the Affair. Shortly after, the King using him in another Piece of Service, it was the Gentleman's Chance to have ill Succes there-in: Whereupon, at his unlucky Return, the Queen commanded her Treasurer to give him Two Hundred Pounds for his Pains. The Treasurer marvelling why her Majesty was so bountiful to one, whom she so ill conceited, and had so ill deserved: The Queen said, *As for his former Service in that he did it well, he did it out of Kind; but now that he hath failed herein, I tell you, he hath only done his Kind, and fitted my Expectation.*

*Isabella, Queen of Spain, us'd to say,  
That every ones good Gesture is a Letter  
in his Commendation.*

The Earl of Warwick ask'd King *Henry the First*, *Why it pleased His Majesty to go so meanly attir'd?* The King answ'red, *It  
beseems*

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*beseems a King to excel his Subjects in Virtue, not in Vesture.*

*Alonso, King of Arragon, washing his Hands before Dinner, deliver'd to a Gentleman that stood by a Couple of Rings of great Value, to hold whilst he had done; and, after washing, not demanding them again, it pleased the Gentleman to keep them as his own.* Ten Years after, the King washing his Hands as before, this Gentleman chanc'd then to stand by, and proffering to receive his Rings again, the King knew him; and, calling to Mind his former Villainy, deliver'd them to another, and said to him, *Nay, soft Friend, no more Rings for you, 'till you restore me my first Couple.*

The same King us'd to say, that five old Things pleased him passing well, *viz. Old Wood for Fewel, an old Horse for easy riding, Wine of a Year old, old Friends, and old Books.*

*Alfred, King of England, us'd to say, That it is much safer to take Abuse of the Dead, than of the Living (meaning Books) which neither for Fear, nor yet for Flattery, abstain to tell a Truth.*

*Isabella,*

## The LAUGHER. 21

*Isabella, Queen of Spain, us'd to say, that she liked these four Sights; An armed Man in the Field, a Bishop in his Pontificalibus, a Lady in her Estate, and a Thief upon the Gallows.*

A Moor King of *Granada* understood the *Spanish* Tongue reasonable well, and seldom or never spake it. Being ask'd why he refused so to do, when Occasion was offered? He answer'd, *Because a King ought neither do or say any Thing, be it never so trifling, which may not beseem him passing well.*

Queen *Isabella*, of *Spain*, abhorred *Garlick*, and it chanced on a Time, (through the Cook's Negligence) that a Dish of Fish was served to her Board, which was all cover'd over with Parsley, the which had lain among *Garlick*; which, as soon as the Queen smelt, she said, *Away with that Villain, do you not see where he is come disguised in Green?*

The Emperor *Nero*, hearing that his Predecessor *Claudius* was related among the Gods, and knowing that he died of a poison'd Sallad, said; *I had not thought that Sallads had been the Food of the Gods.*

*Of*

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*Of Noblemen and Ambassadors.*

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**D**ON John, first Duke of *Medina Sidonia*, being advised by his Treasurer that his Expences were most excessive, and his Gifts all too liberal ; he answer'd, *I will have the Glory of my House known to the World, not by possessing much Treasure, but by expending much Treasure.*

Don *Frederick of Toledo*, Duke of *Alva*, being besought unto by a poor Widow Gentlewoman to prefer with his Liberality her Daughter in Marriage, he was easily inclined so to do ; whereupon he willed his Treasurer to give her an Hundred Marks. The Treasurer mistook the Duke, and gave her an Hundred Pounds ; who shortly after coming to give up his Accompts to his Lord, this Hundred Pounds came then in Sight : Whereunto the Duke excepted, and said ; *Why, I awarded but One Hundred Marks.* The Treasurer had then no other Shift, but to say, *That his Ears mistook his Honour's Pleasure.*

*Pleasure.* Nay, reply'd the Duke, *rather do I thank God that he hath afforded thee better Ears, than me a good Tongue;* and so he past the Accompt for currant.

Henry the Third, King of *France*, demanded of Monsieur *Dandolot* what especial Things he had noted in *England*, during the Time of his Negotiation there. He answer'd, that he had seen but three Things remarkable; which were, *That the People did drink in Boots, eat raw Fish, and strew'd all their best Rooms with Hay*: Meaning Black-Jacks, Oysters, and Rushes.

A Nobleman of *Ferrara*, having liv'd to the last End of his Age unmarried, his Friends demanded his Reason why he would not take a Wife: He answered, because he would not be bound to get Children. Being asked why he would not get Children: He answered, because he would not be bound to love them.

Monsieur *Le Counte*, seeing the Duke *Byron's* Impatience before his Death, ask'd him what he thought of Death? *That, said he, betwixt it and Life there is no Difference.* *Why then, said the Count, do you not embrace it with more Patience?* *Because then, said the*

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the Duke, *I should not make them alike, for they must both be troublesome.*

The Fortress of *Buitrago*, by Negligence, was set on Fire, and burnt down to the Ground, the Duke of *Infantafo* being thereof Lord. The Captain of the Place was the first Man that brought the Duke News of the Mischance ; beseeching his Highness, that seeing it happen'd through his meer Default, he would sever his detested Head from his Shoulders, for an Example to all careless Captains ever after. Then the Duke asked him whether his Nets and Toyles, which he had there for Deer, were also perished with the Fire. He answered ; *No, my Lord, they are safe.* *That's well*, said the Duke : *As for the Fortress, I tell thee, Captain, take no Care, for I did mean to have razed it long ago.*

A Pick-thank told Don *Lopez de Haro*, that such a one had greatly misus'd him in Terms behind his Back, advising him to revenge the Injury highly : Whereunto Don *Lopez* answered, *Now I give God Thanks, that though he be able to speak ill of me, yet hath he not the Power to hurt me.*

A Moor Gentleman seldom dined from the Earl of *Urenia's* Board. It chanced, in

## The LAUGHER. 25

in a Forenoon, that a Tumult arose in the Earl's Palace, the Gentleman not being yet come: But soon after he came, for it was Dinner Time; whom the Earl seeing, said unto him, *Sir, you are welcome; though resembling the Smith's Dog, evermore awake at Meal, and asleep at the Anvil.*

An ancient Captain, whose Beard was extremely white with Age, brought Word to the Earl of *Urenia* how the Enemy had surpriz'd his Fort. *Trust me, Captain, good News, answer'd the Earl; thou hast lost the Fort, and preserv'd the Barbacane.* *Barbacane* signifying, in *Spanish*, a white Beard, and also a Blockhouse.

*Francisco Symenes*, Archbishop of *Toledo*, being deputed High-Governor over *Spain*, during the Emperor's Absence in the *Low-Countries*, upon the Occasion of some Service sent for the Earl of *Urenia* to come to him to *Madrid*. The Earl arrived within two Days Journey of the Court; and, walking near his Inn, chanced to cast his Eye upon a curious Piece of Plate in a Goldsmith's Shop. With that he stepped in, viewed the Curiosity, and, taking it well, bid the Goldsmith bring it to his Inn. The Goldsmith knew him not, and therefore craved his Name: Upon which the

C Earl,

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Earl, remembering his old Grudge towards the Archbishop, and taking it in Scorn to be at his Call, answered, *Nay, nay, my Friend, it is no Wonder you don't know me, for I am so fallen, I don't know myself.*

*Caduidus*, King of *Scythia*, being returned from *Greece*, and intending to plant Civil Laws in his Country, was traiterously slain by his own Brother, as he was Hunting; but, feeling his Death's Wound, he said, *I have been preserved among Strangers, by Wisdom and Learning; but am murdered among my Kindred, by Envy.*

*Charles*, King of *France*, being reproved by one of his Lords for some Fearfulness he had shewed in his Countenance: He said, *You are a Fool; he that is without Fear, is without Virtue, and sins from Presumption.*

*Gonzalo Fernandes*, a brave *Spaniſh* General, walking in a Church, heard a Priest praying very loudly: To whom he said, *Father, what Prayer is that you say?* He answered, *The Prime. Strain it not then so high*, reply'd the General, *lest you break it.* For *Prime*, in *Spaniſh*, signifieth also a treble Lute-String.

Don

Don *Diego de Mendoza*, Earl of *Melito*, was wont to say, *That in the House where there is a Fountain, there needeth no Cistern*; and the *Lord that hath Fee enough, need board up no Treasure*.

The Earl of *Cenete*, being a very young Gentleman, at the Siege of *Perpenian* ventured close under the Wall, darted a Launce into the Castle, and came safe away. Soon after a Couple of Horsemen sallied forth out of the Place, and he seeing them would have ventured to encounter one of them. His Tutor would not suffer him, but said, *Soft, Sir, I will go before and kill one of them, and then come you after and cut off his Head*. Nay, reply'd the Earl, *rather let me go before and kill one of them, and then come you after and kiss his Tail*.

The Earl of *Lenios* awarded Justice to a Vassal of his, wherewith the Party found himself injur'd, and highly exclaim'd of the Earl's Injustice therein, and indeed the Earl mistook the Matter: Whereupon he sent for the Party the next Day, and said unto him, *My Friend, thy Speeches deserve Laughter, and my Error Reformation*.

28      *The LAUGHER.*

One asking *Philip de Mourney*, *Who was most happy?* He answer'd, *He that had Health of Body, Wealth of Fortune, and the Knowledge of a Saint,*

An Officer, coming to arrest a Shoemaker within his House, the Shoemaker's Wife so well bestirred her, that she bravely belabour'd the Officer, and in the mean Time her Husband got away. The Officer then came unto the Duke of *Infantago*, and complained unto him of the Battery, and of the Shoemaker's Wife's Misusage; alledging, that if so scandalous a Fact were not very severely and speedily corrected, it would greatly redound to his Honour's Disgrace: Whereunto the Duke answer'd, *Seeing, as thou sayest, the Disgrace will be mine, I will freely forgive her.*

A King of *Spain* commanded a Gallery to be built upon Arches all along a Street, from his Palace to Don *Inigo Lopez*'s Palace, and understanding that it was all finished, he sent a Gentleman of his Privy-Chamber to go view the Work, and bring him true Report thereof, and withal to salute in his Name Don *Inigo Lopez*. The Gentleman, being arrived there, viewed the Work, and did the King's Salute unto the Nobleman; who answered, *Most bumble*

## The LAUGHER. 29

*humble Thanks unto the King's Salute, and I pray tell his Highness I am well, and do rest ready at all his Majesty's Employance; only I wonder why it hath pleased his Highness to join so unnecessary a Prop to my strong House.*

A Dutchess was jealous of a fair Gentlewoman, conceiting that she used some unlawful Means to win her Duke to her Love, and in this Mind sent for her to murder her. The innocent Gentlewoman, suspecting no such Danger, came; and, being in the Place of Death, the Dutchess regarding her exceeding rare Beauty, dismiss'd her again; saying, *It is thy Beauty hath slain me, and saved thee.*

The Earl of *Cadra*, being a very valiant Gentleman, arming himself on a Time to go to engage the Enemy, his Gentlemen greatly wondered to see him so tremble and quiver all the Time his Armour was putting on; which the Earl perceiving, said, *See, see, Sirs, how basely my Flesh quakes to think in what a Peck of Troubles my adventurous Heart will put it in anon.*

The Marquis of *Santiliana* was a great Student; and, being on a Time merrily re-

30      *The LAUGHER.*

prehenled for it by his illiterate Friends ; he said, *I converse better with my Books than with you.*

The Marquis of *Comares*, talking with the President of *Cordua*, said unto him, *That the Romans maintained a rich Common-wealth, and but mean Houses ; and the Spaniards rich Houses, and but a hungry Common-wealth.*

The Marquis of *Santiliana* used to say, *That Ceremonies are enough for Strangers, but Deeds befit Friends.*

The Earl of *Cifuentes* being Ambassador for the *Spaniſh* King at the Court of *Rome*, and being present at a Council holden in the Pope's Consistory, at which were present Ambassadors from most Christian Nations, many Cardinals, and the Pope himself ; and seeing there the *French* King's Chair placed above his Liege's, he pushed it down with great Impatience. A Bishop that sate by, rebuked him for it, affirming, that was no meet Time nor Place to commit Affronts. *Tut, reverend Father, he answered, say you as become a Divine, and do I as fitter a Gentleman.*

*Francis,*

*Francis, King of France, in a Letter that he wrote to the Emperor's Ambassador, endorſ'd it thus, To the Ambassador of Kings, and King of Ambassadors, &c.*

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*Of Gentlemen and Ladies.*

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*ISABELLA, Queen of Spain, saying to a young Gentleman, whose Father had before sustaineſ some just Disgrace at her Highness's Hands, I trow, Sir, you will trimly raise up your House again, and make us good Amends for your Father's Fault.* He being a ſilly Sot, answered, *Yea, and like your Maſtſty, one End of my Barn indeed is ſore decayed with the laſt Winds, by reaſon that it stands ſomewhat high, but my Mother hath promiſed me to be at the Charge of that Reparation.*

Two Gentlemen paſſing a narrow Street, were forced out of the Foot-Path by a Corps that was poorly bearing to the Grave;  
at

32 *The LAUGHER.*

at which one seeming angry, the other said,  
*Pray don't grumble at giving Way to your  
Betters, for the Person there inclos'd is now  
a Companion for a King.*

A poor Man, coming to a Man in Power to beseech a Favour of him ; thus began----  
*May it please your Majesty, to pity my Case :  
Your Grace will always find me at your Lord-  
ship's Devotion : Indeed, your Excellence, I  
have been hardly used, therefore beseech  
you, by the Honour of your Knighthood, noble  
Esquire, that your Worship will grant me  
some Relief, Sir.-----* Here the Gentleman  
burst out a laughing ; saying, *I see, Friend,  
you are resolved to hit my Title right, for  
you have ran from the Top to the Bottom of  
Honour.*

An honest old Gentleman used to say,  
*A Lyar was like counterfeit Coin.*

A Gentleman, meeting a proud Lord,  
paid him all Reverence due to his Quality ;  
which the Lord slightly returned, by only  
just touching his Hat : Upon which the Gentleman ask'd my Lord's Page, *Whether his  
Master was bald or mangy ?* The Lacquey,  
amazed, said, *No, Sir ; why do you ask ?  
Because,*

## The LAUGHER. 33

*Because, replied the Gentleman, I see he is afraid to pull his Hat off.*

A Gentleman from Court, paying a Visit to a Man of Quality who had been some Time in the Country, the Lord ask'd him what People said of him at Court---- *Really, my Lord,* replied he, *I heard nothing of your Lordship, either Good or Bad:* Upon which the Nobleman called for his Servants, and ordered them to thrash his new Guest heartily; which being done, my Lord gave him a Purse of fifty Pieces, saying, *Now, when thou returnest, thou mayst report both Good and Bad of me.*

A Gentleman, near Neighbour to the Duke of Modena, in a scarce Year of Corn, earnestly beseeched his Grace to supply his Necessity; which the Duke promised, and immediately ordered his Steward to draw a Warrant for fifty Bushels of Wheat. The Secretary obeyed, and brought a Warrant in these Words, to be signed by the Duke; *Deliver fifty Bushels of Wheat to Don Pedro, I being willing to pleasure him with so much at this Time.* Upon reading it, the Duke started into Rage, tore the Warrant, rebuked the Secretary, and ordered him to write another in this Form; *Deliver fifty Bushels of Wheat to*

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*to Don Pedro, for it pleases my worthy Friend to do me the Honour to accept of it.*

An old Gentleman, being asked by another how he came to be so rich ; he answered, *Not by hoarding my Money, but by curbing my Appetites.*

A Gentleman sitting at a Play, a Merchant by Chance sat before him, whose Hat was so high and broad, that it hindred his View of the Play : Whereupon he said unto him, *My good Friend, I beseech you, do off your Hat awhile, for I assure you it will greatly benefit my Eye-sight.*

A Gentleman, in regard of a Gentlewoman's rude Behaviour towards him, estranged himself for a Season from conversing with her : Whereupon a Friend of her's asking him, *Why he became so great a Stranger to that House ?* He answered, *Because better is civil Strangeness, than rude Familiarity.*

On St. Stephen's Day it is the Custom for all Horses to be let Blood and drench'd. A Gentleman being that Morning demanded, *Whether it pleased him to have his Horse let Blood and drench'd, according to the Fashion ?*

## The LAUGHER. 35

*Fashion?* He answered, *No, Sirrah, my Horse is not diseased of the Fashions.*

A Gentleman having a Rundlet of Sack in his House, a Friend of his coming to visit him, he invited him down into his Cellar to taste his Sack; where, said he, *For want of another Cup, I have an excellent Cain to drink out of.* *No, I thank you, Sir,* said the other, *for I know then I shall not be Abel to come up again.*

Two or three Gentlemen, one of whose Names was *Sampson*, talking of the coming of the *Spanish Fleets*, says one of them, *What need we puzzle ourselves thus to raise up an Army, when Sampson here is able to conquer them all?* *True,* said Sampson, *if I had one of thy Faw-bones, I should do Miracles.*

A Gentleman came hungry Home, and called for Dinner. His Man answered, *That it was but new stricken Ten.* *Tut,* said the Gentleman, *tellest thou me of Ten by the Clock, being Twelve by my Stomach.*

A very civil Gentleman, walking in Conversation with other his Companions, staid talking by the Way with a plain Countryman, who met him, and delivered him a

Letter:

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Letter: And because his Party was somewhat long, the others were discontented, and walked on before; who, at last overtaking them, said, *Gentlemen, it is no less honourable to answer an Inferior, than to comply with an Equal.*

A young Gentleman that had followed the Wars, complained, when he came Home, of the Sciatica: And being asked how he came by that Ach; he answered, *By lying in frank Tenements, viz. upon the bare Earth.*

One asking a Gentleman, his Acquaintance, what good Horses he had; he answered, *As stately a one as ever you saw.* The other then being desirous to see it, to the Stable they went; where, when they came, a piteous poor Jade it was, of pure Skin and Bone: But looking still about for the said stately Horse, and not seeing any such there, he wondered, and often asked where he was. The other answered, *Why look here, where he stands, pointing to the poor Jade. I warrant you, quoth he, that he goes not above Half a Mile an Hour though he were to die for it, and can you have a statelier Horse then so?*

A virtuous Gentleman, seeing a malicious Person look down on the Ground, and continue gazing

## The LAUGHER. 37

gazing thereon a good Space, said, *Questionless either some Mischief is befallen yonder Man, or some Good to some other Body.*

A Gentleman put out his Mule to a Horse-courser to break, and bid him make it a Widow Mule. The Horse-courser, wondering at such a Term, demanded his Meaning therem. *Marry, said the Gentleman, a Widow hath these three good Properties, she is fat, she feeds well, and she goes well; such a one would I have you make my Mule.*

A brave gallant Knight of this Kingdom, being of goodly and tall Stature, walking into *Westminster-Hall*, met a very low, little, lame Gentleman, with a prodigious long and broad Sword under his Arm; whereat the Knight wondering, took the little Gentleman by the Shoulder, and said, *My little pretty Fellow, why dost thou carry that Weapon?* The other suddenly answered, *Thou great long Oak, to cut down thy Water-boughs.*

A Captain, coming to visit a very merry mad Knight his Countryman, the Knight instantly, before many other Gentlemen, began to enter into the Commendations of the Captain; telling what rare and wonderful Exploits he had done at the Siege of St. *Quintin's.*

D *Truly,*

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*Truly, said the Captain, it was not strange ; for, as I remember, the Armour I wore that Day, was as thick as between White-Hall and St. Quintin's. Why, were you not there ? said the Knight. No, truly, said the Captain. Why, it is no Matter, said the Knight, for I know, if you had been there, you would have done as much as I have reported.*

A Gentleman accompanying on the Way a great Officer of *Spain*, who wore a huge Chain about his Neck, with a great *St. James* hanging down his Breast before ; at parting, this Gentleman's Horse was so unruly, that he could not easily manage him, but still he *frisk'd* and *caper'd*, and *cross'd* the Officer on the Way : Whereupon the Officer asking him what his Horse ailed ? he answered, *And like your Honour, he is like a Hackney Jade ; which wheresoever it sees a Sign hang out, thinks straight it is an Inn, and will not pass it : So is it with my Horse, and your Honour's Ornament about your Neck.*

Two Gentlemen were at Variance one with another, and the one of them sent his trufty Servant to an old Gentleman, his Neighbour, to sollicit his Favour on his Behalf : Whereunto the old Gentleman made this Answer, *That he, for his Part, was rather sorry for their*

## The LAUGHER. 39

their mutual Ennities, being both his very good Neighbours, then that he would any Ways be a Party therein, other then in Way to attone them to his Power, and make them good Friends again. The Serving-man delivering this Answer to his Master, the Gentleman, all in a Huff, said, *What an old Fool is he, that will be angry with Nobody?*

A Gentleman, conversing merrily among a many Gentlewomen, they said unto him, *Beware you speak no more such Follies, for fear we bind you.* He answered, *Being yourselves all loose, will you bind me?*

A poor Gentleman and a rich Curmudgeon, being at chollerick Terms with one another, the Churl swore that he was as good a Gentleman as he: *Even so,* replied the Gentleman; *then I assure thee, I am the veriest Peasant in the World.*

A busy Fellow was telling a virtuous Gentleman, how *Such-a-one* spake ill of him behind his Back, in the Presence of a great many. *Of a great many,* answered the Gentleman: *Believe me, so I had rather one should say ill of me before many, than many before one.*

One saying to a Gentleman, *Sir, methinks you have built your House well for Summer, but not for Winter.* He answered, *Belike you think I have less Wit than wild Geese, that cannot shift my Abode with every Season.*

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### *Of Gallants and Upstarts.*

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A Presumptuous Gallant besought the King of Spain, in a Merriment, to make him his Secretary. The King answered, *That he was already provided of a sufficient One. Yea, well I wot, reply'd the Gallant, your Majesty hath a Secretary indeed, but he can speak no Latin, which is a foul Default.* The Secretary standing by, then answered, *But it is a greater Shame not to speak good Spanish.*

*Emanuel, King of Portugal, being to ride a Hunting, willed his Steward to provide him Dinner in a Banqueting-House, which he had in the Forest, and that it should consist only of*

## The LAUGHER. 41

of such Meats as had no Blood in them, *viz.* Salads and Fruits altogether. A Gallant overhearing such to be the King's Order, stepped straight to a Gentleman, his Companion, and drawing forth his Sword, presented it to the King; and said, *It may then please your Majesty to taste hereof, for by my Faith it never yet drew Blood of any, and in itself the Devil a Drop it hath.*

A merry Gentleman, seeing a Gallant that was bound for the *Indies*, walking the Streets, his Hat cocked, and befeathered with all Kind of coloured Plumes, said, *When, a God's Name, will this Woodcock fly? For well I see he hath all his Feathers about him.*

Three Farmers Sons, who through their Purses were made Knights, coming to visit a Gentleman who was an exceeding great House-keeper, and finding there divers Gentlemen; the Knights, after Dinner, asked what Sport they should go to? *Why, said the good Man of the House, to Bowls, if you please; and we three Gentlemen, and no Knights, will play against you three Knights, and no Gentlemen.*

A Gallant, standing in a great Study, a Gentlewoman asked him what he thought of?

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He

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He answered, *Of nothing. What do you think of*, said she, *when you think of nothing?* *Truly, Madam,* replied he, *of Womens Constancy.*

A Gallant boasted himself of much Worship and Gentry, in a Place where he was not known, and it chanced that he and his Taylor differed about a Bill of Accompt; and he highly vaunting his Worship to the Taylor, said, *Why, Peasant, it seems thou knowest not what Gentry means. Tell me, what is it?* The Taylor answered, *Yes, to be borne a Hundred Miles from hence.*

A poor Creature begg'd Alms of a Gallant, who gave him Six-pence. The Beggar said, that he would pray to God most truly for him. *No,* answered the Gallant, *I pray thee pray for thyself, for I take no Alms Usury.*

A young Master, that had wasted a good Inheritance in a very short Space, one said in Mockage of him, *Whereas Earth useth to consume all other Men, this Gallant hath consumed Earth.*

A Portuguese and a Spaniard fought, and, by Means of Friends, they were parted, and almost reconciled. Then the Portuguese said, *I am*

## The LAUGHER. 43

*I am content, Sirs, at your earnest Entreaties, to let the Villain live ; but, as I am a Gentleman, I'll have one Limb or other of him, as a Badge of my Victory.*

A vain Gallant ran his Head by Chance against another's Belly, and the Company asking this other how he felt his Belly ; he answered, *Perfectly well, for a Wind-bladder never gives a great Blow.*

A young Master was new come to his Living, and his Mother blaming his Unthriftiness, all in a Pet he said unto her ; *Faith, Mother, taunt me so but once more, and for Spight I'll sell you all the Land and Living I have. So may you well do, Son,* answered the Mother ; *yea, and if you should sell it all but for Six-pence, yet should you be no Loser thereby, for it never cost you a Groat.*

A presumptuous Gallant fastened upon the Spanish Court-Gate, a Tilt-Challenge against all Comers. A Lady, asking her Paramour whether he would subscribe thereunto : He answered, *No, Madam ; for so fantastical a Body admits no Impression, viz. Encounter.*

An upstart Gallant, being determined to seem the Gentleman, bought him half a dozen

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dozen Suits of Apparel ; and putting on, the first Day of his Bravery, a fair large Velvet Cloak, he looked about him, and said, *Methinks this Cloak stands nothing handsome upon me.* True, said a Gentleman that stood by, *you would therefore do well to begin with Taffary first, and then fall to your Velvet afterwards.*

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*Of Colonels and Captains.*

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**M**ONsieur *d' Aubeny*, last General of the French Forces in the Kingdom of *Naples*, being, what by Conquest and what by Composition, to yield up to *Spain* the last Towns and Holds that he there held for his Liege, it pleased *Gonzalo Fernandes* the *Spaniſh* General to be so honourable, as after much Festivity extended unto him at his Surrender, to furnish his decayed Army with good Horses to pack away : But Monsieur *d' Aubeny*, rather regarding the Pride of his Mind than the Curteſy of the *Spaniſh* General, told him at parting, *That he had done very unadvisedly*

## The LAUGHER. 45

unadvisedly to mount his Men so bravely away, as upon the same Horses he might chance to see him and them shortly again in those Parts, in as hostile Manner as ever before. You shall be welcome, answered Gonzalo, whensoever you come, neither shall you ever find Spain less honourable than now.

Gonzalo Fernandes used to say, *That Soldiers in Peace, are like Chimnies in Summer.*

The said General used to say, *If thy Enemy fly, make him a golden Bridge.*

The said Gonzalo Fernandes, marching on a Time to bid the Frenchmen battle, chanced to stumble and fall: Whereat his Army seeming dismayed, at rising up, he said unto them, *Why, Sirs, this is no worse than that the Ground embraceth me for Joy.*

Diego Garcia Paredes, saying to Gonzalo Fernandes, *May it please your Honour to avoid that dangerous Place, seeing how sore the Enemy play upon it.* He answered, *Since God hath put no Fear into my Heart, put you none into my Head.*

A Coward

A Coward known, being made Commander of divers valiant Soldiers, they refused to follow him; at which the General being angry, demanded the Reason of their Contempt. And they answered, *That if it pleased him to make a Lion their Captain, they as Harts would follow and serve him; but if he made a Hart their Governor, they as Lions must disdain him.*

*Hanibal Gonzago*, being in the Low-Countries over-thrown from his Horse by an *English* Captain, and commanded to yield himself Prisoner, kiss'd his Sword and gave it the *Englishman*, saying, *Si Fortuna me tormenta, Il Speranza me contenta.*

Don *Pedro Gonzales*, seeing his Liege at the Battle of *Aliuberto* in Danger to be slain, alighted from off his Horse, and mounted the King thereon, and so got him safe away: Which after he had done, and placed him in assured Safety, he would have returned back again to the Battle, but the King would not suffer him. *Pardon me, my Liege*, then said he, *I will go: Never shall the Women of Guadalaiara say, That I train'd up their Sons and Husbands to the Wars, and have*

*have left them dead in the Field, and myself safe returned Home.*

A Spanish Captain was sent to skirmish a Multitude of Enemies with a few Men, and of those few he took but the Half ; saying, *Better yet a few die than all.*

*Chatillian, Lord-Admiral of France*, having given the *Guisians* a great Overthrow in a Vale, was himself suddenly set upon by a Troop of Enemies from a Hill ; yet notwithstanding, retreating his scattered Army to Safety, with the Loss only of some few, he said by the Way, *I thought yonder Mountain Cloud would at last redound to a Shower of Rain.*

*Fernando Gonzalos*, seeing one of his Soldiers felling his Horse, asked him why he sold him ? The Soldier answered, *Because, my Lord, his Fashion is to give back at the Sight of Armour. I wonder much, reply'd Gonzalos, that you will sell him for the same Quality you bought him for.*

*Gonzalo Fernandes*, being to bid the Enemy battle, it fortuned that certain Barrels of Powder were set on fire, wherewith the Army was superstitiously dismayed ; which he perceiving,

perceiving, said, *Sirs, this is the Bonfire of our Victory.*

A Soldier came and told his Captain, that he thought such a Fortress of the Enemy might be won only with the Loss of some few Men: Whereunto the Captain answer'd, *But will you be one of these few?*

An *Italian* Captain, seeing Fire given to a Cannon in the Enemy's Fort towards his Quarter, prostrated himself upon the Ground, and said, *He that fears not thee, fears not God.*

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### *Of Soldiers.*

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A Captain and a Soldier fought a Combat, and the Captain hurt the Soldier in the Arm, so as down fell his Sword from out his Hand, he resting at the Captain's Mercy. Then the Captain saying, *Now yield, William, or die.* Is it as I list? answered the Soldier; know you then, that though my Arm now fails me

*me to fight, yet my Courage serves me well to die.*

A Portuguese Soldier, marching in a Troop of Spaniards against the Moors unarm'd and weaponless, one asked him why he was no better furnished. He answered, *Marry, because there are as valiant Men at Foot, as at Arms.*

A Mechanick of Spain went to the Wars, and was shot with an Arrow into the Head. The Surgeon, upon searching the Wound, said, *That he could not possibly live, for that the Arrow had pierced his Brain.* The Mechanick answered, *That cannot be, for I have no Brain at all ; had I had Brains, I trow, I had never come to the Wars.*

At the Siege of Barcelona, a Portuguese Horseman entered, in the Enemy's Throng, into the Town-Gate, and wrote with Chalk within the Gate, *Hiberto adventured Vasco Fernandes.* The next Day, a Spaniard hearing him boast thereof, was no less adventurous, and bravely hazarded himself the next Skirmish in at the same Gate ; and wrote with a Coal, beyond his, *Hiberto Vasco Fernandes did not adventure.*

E

A valiant

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A valiant Soldier, being demanded how many Men he durst encounter withal at once ; he answered, *If he be an honest Man, one is enough ; if Villians, a whole Street full.*

A Novice Soldier, putting on his first Harness, trembled and said, *Now that I see myself in Arms, I am afraid of myself.*

A young Soldier brought from the Wars a great Scar in his Face, and chancing, on a Time, to meet an old Soldier, that had as great a Scar in the Face as he, he stood gazing thereupon a good while : When the other asked him why he did so ? He answered, *I am sure I am up, but you have won it, by the elder Hand.*

A Soldier that had a piteous mangled Face, brought his Garment to a Taylor to mend. The Taylor gazingly earnestly on his Face, at last said, *You had more need be new made, than mended.*

A Soldier that in his Mirth was most gracious, and in his Rage intolerable ; one said, *That he was like a Quince, that helps Digestion well, and yet is itself hard to digest.*

One

One preferred War before Peace ; and his Reason was, *Because that in War the Fathers bury their Sons, but in Peace the Sons their Fathers.*

A Soldier was telling that in a Battle in which he was, the Enemy's Arrows were so numerous in the Air, that they darkened the Sun over them : Whereunto another answered, *Then you had the Odds, to fight with them in the Shade.*

On a Plain all covered over with Snow, a Captain seeing a Soldier march in his Doublet and Hose, with a Pike on his Shoulder, all in a Sweat, asked him how, in so cold a Day as that, and but in a thin Doublet and Hose, he could possibly sweat so ? The Soldier answer'd, *Marry, Captain, if you carried all your Goods upon your Back at once as I do, I warrant you, you would sweat as well as I.*

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*Of Challenges and Combats.*

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IN the Combat between *Phillipine*, the Duke of Savoy's Bastard-Brother, and Monsieur *Crequi*, *Phillipine* was run quite through the

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Body and nail'd to the Earth; which done,  
*Crequi* bad him beg his Life or lose it. *You are a Fool,* answered *Philipine,* *to bid me ask what you cannot give.*

A Spanish Soldier challenged an Italian Gentleman to the Field, whereunto the Italian excepted in respect he was a Gentleman; *Nevertheless,* he said, *I have a Boy that shall fight with thee in the Right of my Quarrel,* where ever thou darfst to appoint. The Spaniard hereunto thus answered, *Let that Boy come; for Boy, or Base, however he be, I will reckon him thy Better.*

A gouty Gentleman challenged to run with one for a Wager; *What Wager?* said the other. He answered, *For Humours.*

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*Of Travellers by Land and Sea.*

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A Travelling Gentleman, being returned Home out of *Italy*, told to a Friend of his a very unlikely Accident, that had befallen him by

by the Way: Whereat his Page standing by, said, *I beseech your Worship give me leave to believe it.*

A Gentleman of Henry the Eighth's Privy-Chamber, having got Leave to travel, and being returned Home, the King demanded of him divers Questions, concerning his Travels; amongst the rest, he asked him if he had seen the City of *Venice*; he answered, *Yes, my Liege.* Then the King demanded, of what State and Beauty it was? He reply'd, *That truly he had taken little Note thereof, for he had but only galloped Post through it by Night, and so departed.*

A Mastiff Dog flew upon a Passenger, and he with the Pike of his Staff ran him into the Guts, and killed him. The Owner of the Dog hereupon commenced his Action against the Party, and the Matter being brought to the upshot, the Judge asked him why he did not rather strike the Dog with the Wood-end of the Staff, then with the Pike? He answered, *And like your Honour, he flew at me with his Teeth, not with his Tail.*

Don *John de Figueroa* used to say, *That he that evermore ailegeth in his Conversation other Mens Sayings, is like a gouty Nail, that*

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*cannot enter the Wood except an Auger maker  
the Way before.*

A Nobleman travelling into a far Country, and being eight or nine Days Journey on his Way, all hot and pufy as he was, wrote a Letter to his Wife; in which he said, *As for my Health, Wife, I am well, I thank God, hitherto, only I find my Breath somewhat short; insomuch as I dare assure thee if ever I die, it will be for want of Breath, and nothing else.*

An Hostler, taking a Gentleman's Boots down to make clean, the Gentleman said unto him, *I pray thee, Fellow, let my Boots alone, for the old Dirt will serve to keep out the new.*

Two Travellers exchanged Horses one with another; and, when they had done, the one of them said, *Now, at a Word, you have as errant a Fide as ever went on four Legs, for he is Founder'd, he hath the Scratches, he is Broken-winded, &c.* The other answered, *Then have I but mine own again, for I'll warrant the other every Way as bad.*

One travelling, on a frosty Morning, through a Country Village, was set upon by a Mastiff.

Mastiff. He, stooping for a Stone to throw at him, and feeling it hard frozen to the Earth, said, *A Pox on the Country where the Stones are tied, and Dogs let loose.*

A plain Gentleman, riding upon a lean large Horse, a Gallant that met him, asked him what a Yard of his Horse was worth, with that he bid his Man alight, and lift up his Horse's Tail unto him; and then he answered, *Enter into the Shop, and they within will shew you.*

One accompany'd another many Days together about his Affairs, and finding himself not duly complied withal for such his Curtesy, upbraided him with his aforesaid Travel: Whereunto the other answered, *As much went I with you, as you with me.*

A Traveller coming to his Inn, saw a fat Goose at the Fire, and desired to have it to Dinner, and, when it was served up, it smelt extreamly; insomuch that the Traveller call'd for his Host, and bad him smell what he had sent up. The Host presently swore that the Goose was slain but that Morning: *A Vengeance on you, said the Traveller, you kill'd her shiting then; for, I am sure, she stinks still abominably.*

One

One that had been whipt at a Cart's Tail for a Misdemeanor, fled his Country for Shame, and embark'd for an obscure Island in the sea, where he spent the Remainder of his Life; and walking one Day, in the High-Street of the Town where he remained, he chanced to see a poor Fellow whipt at a Cart's Tail along the Street; and, in Compassion of his Case, he said, *Lord, how can this poor Soul endure all this Whipping?* By Chance one that stood by, and knew of his former Correction at Home in his own Country, answered, *Even, as a Man would say, as well as he that had underwent the like Whipping elsewhere.*

Don *Juan de Arbina* used to say, *That such as report News of strange Countries, are like Vagabonds; whose Garments consist rather of Patches, than of any principal Piece.*

*Gonzalo Fernandes*, arriving safe ashore in Spain after a great Tempest, and looking back to the Sea, he espied another Ship tending to the same Shore, and upon the Poop of it, a Gallant clad all in crimson Velvet: Whereupon Don *Diego de Mendoza*, asking him who he thought that might be; he answered, *It is Santelmus, who never appear-eth but after a Tempest.*

In

In a perilous Storm at Sea, a Passenger of the Company, while all the rest were a weeping and praying, and making humble Vows to God for their Safeties, fell hard to his Victuals ; and, being for such his Impiety reprehended, he answered, *Being to drink by and by so great a Draught of Water, is it not meet that I victual my Paunch well before-hand ?*

A Passenger at Sea feeling his Stomach rise, said unto the Master of the Ship, *I pray hold still the Skip awhile, till I vomit.*

A Ship sailing towards *Peru*, a mighty Storm arose and endangered it ; whereupon the Captain charged every Man to throw into the Sea, the heaviest Thing he could best spare, to lighten the Ship. A Passenger that had his Wife there, offered then to throw her over-board, but the Company rescued her : And, being asked what he ailed so to do ; he answered, *She is the heaviest Thing I have, and I can best spare her.*

One advised his Friend to pass along by Sea from *Newcastle* to *London* ; affirming that, with a good Wind, he might arrive there.

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there both sooner than by Land, and with Half the Charge. The other answered, *No, I like not to ride upon a Horse that goes an End, and that I cannot alight from whenever I please.*

A Ship, being by Mischance set on fire upon the Coast of Peru, and past all Recovery, a Soldier threw himself into the Sea ; and said, *Some roast, some sod.*

A Fishmonger, in a Tempest at Sea, seeming to fear drowning, the Marriners asked him, whether he feared to be eaten of Fishes ? He answered, *No, rather may Fishes fear me.*

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### Of Politicians.

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ONE would needs prove that Men now-a-days are wiser than Men of old Time : And his Reason was, *Because they could remedy Evil only with Good ; but Men, now-a-days, can remedy one Mischief with another.*

One

One asked *Matchiavel* how he might do, never to be deceived ? He answered him, *Never to trust any Man.*

*Domitian* would say, *The only Way to win the Romans Hearts, was to promise all Things, and perform nothing.*

*Philip*, Duke of *Burgundy*, was wont to say, *Of great Personages speak neither Good or Bad : For if you speak Good of them, happily thou belyest them ; if Evil, thou may'st repent it.*

A Politician always wished his Enemy these three Advantages, *viz.* A just Plea in Law, to love such as wished Ill, and to win at the Beginning of Play.

A Politician, advising a young Gentleman to deal doubly, and dissemble twenty Manner of Faces in the Affair he had in Hand. He answered, *That one good Face was worth twenty bad ones, and a great deal easier to represent.*

Of

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*Of Suits and Suiters.*

---

ONE Henry Goldingham, that had long  
sued to her Majesty for her Signet to his  
granted Suit, and her Majesty still saying that  
she had no Pen and Ink at Hand to do it ; at  
last he humbled his Bill to her Highness's  
Foot, and said, *May it then please your Ma-  
jesty but to step your Royal Foot hereupon,  
and I myself will then warrant it for Good.*  
Her Majesty so well liked of such his merry  
Conceit, that presently calling for Pen and Ink,  
did deign to sign it.

The Cardinal Don *Pedro Gonzales*, being  
eighty Years old, a Servant of his as old, or  
rather older than himself, besought him to  
bestow on him an Office which was lately  
fallen into his Grant : Whereunto the Car-  
dinal answered, *That he was sorry he had spoken  
so late, because he had already granted it to  
another ; and promised that the next that fell,  
he should certainly have it. Oh, my good  
Lord, reply'd the Servant, but what Thing in  
this*

## The LAUGHER. 61

*this World can sooner fall void than your Grace or I?*

An Italian Captain, in the Low-Countries, besought the Duke of *Parma* in an unreasonable Suit ; which the Duke refused him, and he humbly thanked his Highness for it : Whereat his Friends, who were by, wondering, he said : *Even humble Thanks for that his Excellence bath so speedily dispatch'd me.*

A young Nobleman in *Spain*, suing a Duke for his Dutchy, in the Midst of all the Law fell in Love with a very mean Gentlewoman, whose Name was *Blanke*, and married her forthwith : Whereat his Father was in great Chafe, and said, *The Fool suing for the Dukedom, would be pleased with a Blanke !*

A poor Man was an humble Suiter to a Gentleman, who said unto him, *I pray thee, Fellow, be gone, for thy Breath stinks miserably of Garlick.* He answered, *Not I, Sir ; possibly it is my Suit that stinks unto you.*

A mean Soldier suing unto *Alexander* for a Reward, he gave him a City, and the

F Soldier

## 62 The LAUGHER.

Soldier told him it was too great a Gift, for his Merit had not deserved such a Recompence: *Sir, said Alexander, I do not look what is fit for you to have, but what is meet for me to give.*

A reverend Person besought a *Largesse* of a Prince for a Friend of his, and the Prince refused it him; he nevertheless still entreated, and it would not be: At last, humbling himself upon his Knee at the Prince's Foot, with much Entreaty he obtained it. Many Gentlemen standing by, condemned him for it, considering his Gravity and Wisdom; and told him, that he had therein greatly discredited his Reverence and Magnanimity. He answered, *That is not my Fault, Gentlemen, but the Prince's; whose Ears, as you see, are in his Heels.*

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## Of Games and Gamesters.

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**A** Lady had an unthrifty Son, and she being to take Water on a Time, and seeing the Billows rough, and the Wind high, said unto him,

## The LAUGHER. 63

him, Son, if I drown To-day, pray thee play  
not away my Cloaths till I be buried.

One used to say, *That Dice and purging  
Pills were of like Nature ; for that a little  
of the one purgeth a Man's Paunch thoroughly,  
and a little of the other a Man's Purse.*

One dispraised Dice, and said, *That Dicers  
are worse than Usurers ; for that they, with  
a Hundred, get but Ten ; but Dicers, with  
Ten, happily get a Hundred.*

A Captain and a Merchant play'd at Dice,  
and the Captain lost, and swore lustily ever  
and anon. At last, having lost all, he  
snatched it all away from the Merchant  
again : Whereat the Merchant, amazed, said,  
*Captain, if you meant I should not carry away  
any Winnings, what ailed you to swear and  
rage so at every Word ?*

One asked a great Dicer, of pale Complexion, what was the Reason he still looked  
so pale and wan ? He answered, *So looks  
the Money I lost at Play.*

A great Gamester in London, having cheated  
a young Novice of his Money exceeding grossly,  
a Gentleman standing by, and seeing the same,  
F 2 drew

## 64. *The LAUGHER.*

drew the Gamester to one End of the Room, and asked him, if he were not ashamed to cozen the poor young Gentleman so basely ? He answered, *No*; for since Nature had cozened him of his Wit, it was no Shame for him to cheat him of his Money.

A Gentleman who did greatly stutter and stammer in his Speech, playing at Cards, laid down a winning Card, and then said unto his Partner, *How sa---ay ye now, wa---was not this Ca---ca Ca---ard pa---af---assing we---we--- well laid ? Yes*, answered the other, *it was well laid, but yet it needs not Half that Cackling.*

A Moor, viewing the Bull baited with Darts in an inclosed Compass of Ground, where both the Bull and the Men fought loosely and in Danger, a Spaniard asked him how he liked that Sport ? He answered, *Too little for Earnest, and too much for Jest.*

A greasy Companion lost his Money at Cards, and in his Rage still said, *The Devil take me.* At last a Stander-by hearing him say so, answered, *So wou'd be, I warrant you, were it not for fear of your Bird-lime.*

Of

Of Popes and Prelates.

---

IT was discoursed at the Table of Pope *Alexander* the Sixth, whether Physicians were necessary in a Common-wealth, Yea or No ; some affirming that *Rome*, being six hundred Years and odd without them, the Citizens lived in good Health, and were lusty, and therefore that they might very well be spared. *Not so*, said the Pope, *rather are they right necessary in my Opinion, for without them the World would increase so fast, that one could not live by another.*

A Cardinal complained unto Pope *Clement* the Seventh, how one *Michael Angelo*, his Painter, in a Picture which he had drawn of Doom's-Day, in St. Peter's Chapel at *Rome*, had therein figured him in Hell amongst the Damned, beseeching him to bid it be altered to some other Likeness : Whereunto the Pope answered, *Well you know, I can release a Soul out of Purgatory, but not out of Hell.*

A Gentleman of Cardinal *Wolsey's*, making Way before his Lord as he passed through the Church, and seeing a poor Priest kneeling at his Prayers in the Way, raised him up, saying, *Room for my Lord Cardinal's Grace*: Whereupon the Priest rose up, and said, *Will his Grace, trow ye, supply my Place?*

Don *Alonso Cartilio*, a Spanish Archbishop, his Household Expence was so excessive, that on a Time his Steward telling him, that except he took some more moderate Course of Living, his Rents could not possibly maintain it: *Well*, answered the Archbishop, *set me down then what Mean you would have me observe in this Matter*. Whereunto the Steward replying, *That it might please his Grace to put away all idle Persons, and retain only necessary ones*. *Well*, reply'd the Prelate, *but give me then a Note of such as you judge necessary, and another of the unnecessary*. The Steward did so, and the Morrow after the Bishop commanding all his Household before him into his great Hall, will'd his Steward to set his necessary Servants in a Row by themselves on the one Side, and the unnecessary ones likewise by themselves on the other Side; which being done,

## The LAUGHER. 67

done, he then said unto his Steward, *These necessary ones which you have here placed, I have need of them all; and these others, I tell thee, they have all need of me: Wherefore necessary and unnecessary, I will still retain them all.*

A Bishop sent half a dozen of Capons to an Abbot, and the Bearer eat one of them to his Dinner by the Way: Now when the Abbot had read the Bishop's Letter, which certified that he had sent him six Capons, he then said unto the Messenger, *My Lad, I pray thee tell my Lord Bishop I humbly thank his Lordship for five Capons; and, as for the sixth, do thou give him Thanks for it thyself.*

A Bishop's Chaplain helping his Lord on with his Rochet, and being somewhat long a drawing on the Sleeves, said the Bishop, *Methinks you are very tedious about this Geer. And like your Grace, he answered, your Sleeves are very straight. Very straight indeed, reply'd the Bishop, for full twenty Years have I travelled to get them on, and till this Time could I never attain it.*

The Cardinal Don Alonso Catilio enjoined his Jester to bring him, at every Month's End, a Chronicle

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¶ Chronicle of all merry Matters that happened. The Cardinal, within a while after, entertained an Alchymist ; to whom, being but newly come, he delivered a thousand Crowns to go to *Toledo*, to buy him all Manner of Implements belonging to the Art. In the mean time he called for his aforesaid Chronicler, to know what Occurrences were befallen that Month. The Jester, among other Fooleries, read unto him what a monstrous Folly he himself had committed, to trust a Stranger with a thousand Crowns, whom happily he should never see more : Whereunto the Cardinal answered, *But what if he do come again, how then ? Marry then*, reply'd the Chronicler, *I will put you out, and put him in your Place.*

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*Of Priests and Fryars.*

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A Great Preacher, ambitious of a Bishoprick, on a Time after his Sermon ended, coming down the Pulpit, a Gentleman of a noble Family standing by, proffered him his

## The LAUGHER. 69

his Hand to help him down. *Pardon me, Sir, said the Preacher, may it please you rather to help me up with your friendly Hand, for down, alas! I can come alone fast enough.*

One Fryar invited another to his Cell to Dinner, and upon some Occasion, sent forth his Boy, and then said unto his Guest, *The World reports you the Son of a Gentleman; and, for my Part, I verily think no less, so truly and gracious is your Conversation.* Whereunto the other answered, *Certainly, if you speak this to affront me, you are much to blame; and if to commend me, why did you send away the Boy?*

A *Dominican* and a *Franciscan* Fryar travelling together on the Way, arrived at a Brook, where the *Dominican* requested the *Franciscan*, because he was bare-foot, to carry him over the Water on his Back. The *Franciscan* was content, up he took him, and into the Water he went; and being stept into the Channel, there he paus'd, and said to the *Dominican*, *Tell me, Brother, have you any Money about you.* The *Dominican*, thinking that he aimed thereby at a Consideration for his Pains, answered, *Yea, marry, have I a little, but not much.* *Much or little, then reply'd the Franciscan,*

70 *The LAUGHER.*

*Franciscan, well you know my Order allows me not to carry any Money about me, though you may : And therefore he let the Dominican slip into the Water, and then left him to get out in the best Manner he was able.*

An unlearned Country Vicar, preaching to his Parishioners against their continual Ale-house going, used this Argument, *Sirs, quoth he, you that love Ale so well, if you knew of what bad Stuff it were made, you would loath it : For it is made of a Thing called Malt. Now, I pray you, what is Malt, but M, A, L, T? As much as to say, as M, much, A, ale, L, little, T, thrift.*

One *Peter Martyr*, Chronicler to the King of Spain, had been a long Time Suiter for a Bishoprick ; and, hearing at last, that four several Confessors were provided of so many several Sees at once, he said, *Faith, among so many Confessors, one Martyr would very well have besemeed their Company.*

Two Monks were accounted passing virtuous Men ; the one of them was very fat and gross, and well complexioned, and the other pale and meagre. The Prior, being asked on a Time by a Nobleman, what might be the Reason of so different Effects of virtuous Living ?  
He

## *The LAUGHER.* 71

He answered, *And like your Honour, yonder fat Brother thinks only of God and of the Joys of Heaven ; and this other of Death, Dooms-day and Hell.*

A reverend Churchman being done a secret Disgrace, unjustifiable by the Party that did it, and he yet not knowing him, said, *Ah ! poor Despight, that makes the Author peep in his Head for Shame.*

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### *Of Doctors and Scholars.*

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ONE asked a great Clerk how he might do to become wife ? Who answered, *In Truth, Friend, I can hardly resolve you ; for you still go one Way and Wisdom another, so that I cannot see how you can possibly meet.*

There dwelt a grave Law - Doctor in Salamanca, and a Neighbour's Child of his came somewhat early in a Morning to crave a little

little Fire of him. *Take some, my Boy*, he said ; *but wherein wilt thou carry it ?* *Marry, Sir*, he answered, *thus* : And with that he laid a Quantity of Ashes upon the Palm of his Hand, and the Coals thereupon, and so went his Way. The Doctor wondered hereat, and swore, that with all the Learning he had, he could not have devised so cunning a Conceit.

One was telling a Dunce of a Doctor, how such a Man was a great Scholar, but a very Fool. He wonder'd greatly thereat, and said, *Well I know a Man may be unlearned, but how Learning may be without a Man I cannot imagine.*

A grave Doctor, discoursing unto two vain Gallants upon a Point of natural Philosophy, and one of them saying, that he understood never a Word : He answered, *No Wonder, for empty Barrels never sink down to the Bottom.*

An old Doctor, who had been a Protestant in King *Edward's* Days, a Papist in Queen *Mary's*, and a Protestant again in Queen *Elizabeth's*, seeing a Lady dance a Galliard, commended her dancing exceedingly. She answered, *That she knew she danced well, only*

*only she was a bad Turner ; hinting at his turning from his Religion.*

A thin Slice of Cheese was set before a Scholar ; who, as soon as he saw it, laid his Finger upon his Mouth. Being demanded why he did so ; he answered, *Lest my Breath should blow it away.*

A many Scholars went to steal Rabbits, and by the Way they warn'd a Novice among them to make no Noise, for fear of scaring the Rabbits away. At last, he espying some, said aloud in *Latin*, *Ecce Cuniculi multi !* and with that the Rabbits ran into their Burroughs : Wherewith his Fellows offended, and chiding him for it, he said, *Who the Devil would have thought that Rabbits understood Latin !*

One that had a fair Library, and seldom or ever betook himself to Study, another said unto him, *It seems that you and your Books are at Truce.*

One being asked, whether he thought such a Man illiterate or no ? He answered, *Aye, his Letters are like plain Song, - few and gross.*

The Marquis of *Antelliana* wonted to say,  
*That we were much bound to good Authors,*  
*because they both dissuade us from Vice, and*  
*advise us to Virtue.*

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### *Of Poets and Musicians.*

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ONE seeing an excellent Poet crooked and deformed of Person, said, *Lord, what a poor Cottage doth yonder good Wit inhabit.*

A Serving-man served in a Kid's-Head to his Master's Board, and by the Way eat up all the Brain of it: Whereupon his Master asking, what was become of the Brain? He answered, *Sir, it is a Musician-Kid.*

One said of Musicians, *That they were the happiest Craftsmen of all others, because they earn Money with making themselves merry.*

A Portuguese play'd Musick at his Mistress's Window, and she unkindly threw Stones at him,

him, and drove him away. A Friend of his then being with him, and seeing his extream Melancholly thereat, bid him take Comfort, saying, *What greater Honour could betide you, then Stones to fly about your Musick, and give it Audience as they did to Orpheus?*

A poor Musician's Hose hung loosely about him for want of Points, and playing on a Time upon a Bandore, before many Gentlemen, he did it very well, and to all their good Likings: Whereupon one of them said merrily unto him, *Faith, Fellow, playing so many good Points upon thy Instrument as thou doest, bestow one upon thy Hose.* He answered, *Your Worship having found that Point, I beseech you bestow it upon me.*

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*Of Phyfick and Physicians.*

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A Bad Painter, that never drew a good Picture in all his Life, found small Thrift in his Trade, for want of Utterance of his rude Shapes, and went to dwell in another Place

where he was not known, and there took upon him the Practice of Physick, and was the Death of many a one. At laist an Acquaintance of his, coming to that Town, chanced to see him; and asking him, what he did in a Physician's Robe, and why he had given over his old Trade? He answered, *Faith, I am now become as you see, to the End the Earth may bury all my Ignorance and Errors hereafter.*

A Physician, riding over *Shooter's-Hill*, in *Kent*, was afraid of Thieves, and by Chance saw a far off a Troop of People before him. Whereupon he bid his Man ride towards them, to discover what they were, and in the mean Time he hid himself close behind a Bush. The Fellow coming unto them, understood that they conducted a Murderer to Execution: Whereupon, being a mad Knave, he straight set Spurs to the Horse, and galloped back again amain toward his Master, still beckoning unto him all the Way as he posted to be gone, and shift for himself: Which the Doctor perceiving, away he rides again towards *London*, as though he had had a Devil at his Tail. Being alighted at his Inn, he there attended his Man's coming, who presently arriv'd, all panting and blowing, and said unto him, *Happy you, Master, that are so well escaped; Gad's Nouns, he to be hanged for killing only one Man!*

## *The LAUGHER.* 77

*Man ! what would they have done with you,  
I trow, who have stain so many in your  
Days ?*

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### *Of Lawyers.*

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**R**ONQUILLIO, a Spanish Justice, used to say, *That it is good to hang a Thief of what Age soever he be ; a young Thief, to the End he may steal no more, and an old Thief for his former Crimes.*

A Lawyer had wasted much Money about a Stone Building, which was so ill contrived that every Man accounted his Expence vain. A Client of his came to him for his Advice, in a Matter of Law ; and, he being at that Time in a Chase with his Workmen, said unto him, *You do this and that, and I know not what, and all of your own Head, and then you blame the Lawyer for all.* The Client hereunto answered, *Sir, my Over-sight in this Case is but slight, but yours is of Lime and Stone.*

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One coming to a Lawyer for his Advice in Law without a Fee, the Lawyer said unto him, *How will you have your Lamp burn, without Oil?*

One telling an honest Gentleman, that he doubted not but his Friend would speed well in the Law-Matter, having so good a Purse, and so great Friends. The Gentleman answered, *If that be all your Hope, the more is the Pity.*

Two Lawyers met the next Day after the Term, and the one said unto the other, *I am sure you carry full Bags down with you into the Country, having made so good a Harvest of this Term.* Not so, answered the other, *rather do I think you have; for your Bags are so Top-full of Fees, that when you throw them down upon the Board, they make no Sound at all, which mine do.* The other replied, *Then belike I have the Odds of you in Money, and you of me in Musick.*

Of

### Of Love and Lovers.

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A N amorous Coxcomb perfumed his Love-Letter to his Mistress, and, fearing lest she should neglect how sweet it was, wrote in a *Postscript* underneath, *I pray you, Mistress, after you have read this Letter, smell to it.*

A Widow Gentlewoman, hearing a young Nobleman discourse unto her of the honourable Love he bare her Daughter, and she objecting that she was too meanly descended to be Wife to so great a Lord as he : He answered, *A more Matter is Love than Lordship.*

*Celestina* is a dainty Pastoral Love-Book in Spanish, and it signifieth Celestial. A Scholar coming to visit his Mistress, she desired him to help her to the said *Celestina* : Who answered,

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answered, *Yourself being the Original, what would you do with the Translation?*

A Gentlewoman went to Church so concealed, that she thought no Body could know her. It chanced that her Lover met her, knew her, and spake to her. *Sir, answered she, you mistake me; how know you me? Ah! too well, reply'd the Gentleman, for so soon as I met you, behold my Wounds fell fresh a bleeding.*

A Gentleman walking with a Lady in each Hand, told them, that by his Skill in Palmestry he could tell them their Fortunes. One of the Ladies, to whom he was particularly devoted, then reach'd forth her Hand, to see what Judgment he would give upon it: Who, after he had viewed it a good while, said unto her, *In Truth, Madam, all my Fortune lies in your Hands.*

A Gentleman had been a long time Suiter to a Gentlewoman, who still rewarded his Love but with Scorn and Disdain; nevertheless he bore himself still a Suiter unto her, and one Evening serenaded her under her Window. She gave Attention to his Musick for some Time, and at last threw a Wisp of Straw

## *The LAUGHER.* 81

Straw at him in Derision. He, not greatly offended thereat, said, *Of a bad Pay-Master, better yet take Straw than nothing.*

A Widow Gentlewoman, who had buried a very tender Husband, being perswaded to marry again; she answered, *The Death of a dear Husband ought not to disannul the Love of a chaste Wife.*

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## *Of Husbands and Wives.*

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A Maid was profered to one in Marriage, and her Friends were offended that the Party so long paus'd upon the Choice: Whereunto he answered, *Is she foul? Then is she odious. If fair? then is she hard to keep. These be the Extreams I muse upon.*

A Bridegroom said unto his Spouse, *When as at such a Time I solicited thy Chastity, hadst thou condescended, I should never have lov'd thee after, neither had we been now Man*

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*Man and Wife, for I did it purposely to try thee.* She answered, *Faith, I thought as much, but Such-a-one taught me more Wit, Seven Years ago.*

A Gentleman used to say, *That the Father gives the Portion, but God the good Wife.*

Two young Men were Suiters to a rich Man's Daughter; the one was rich, the other poor, and he bestowed her upon the poor Suiter. Being asked why he did so? he answered, *Because the poor Bachelor is wise, and may repair his Living in Time; but the other's a Fool, and like to bring all to nought.*

In Spain it is lawful to marry by Attorney. One besought his dear Friend to marry a fair Maid for him, in his Absence; affirming, that they were already privily contracted before Witness. His Friend (with Licence of the Church first obtained) did so; and, after the Marriage, he and the Bride sat down together in a Pew, and he spake never a Word unto her: Which the Neighbours wondering at, asked him why he was so strange to the Bride? He answered, *Well have I leave to wed her for my Friend, but*

*The LAUGHER.* 83

*but not to speak the first Folly unto her :  
That's his Right, and he must have it.*

One asked a young Gentleman, what he meant to marry so deaf a Gentlewoman ? He answered, *Because I hop'd she was also dumb.*

Of one that had married a foul Woman, with a rich Portion, another said, *That he took her meerly by Weight, without Fashion.*

A Gardener being to be hang'd, his Wife came to give him her last Kiss at the Gallows. To whom he said, *Fie on thee, Baggage, thus are we like to thrive well at the Year's End : There cannot be a Meeting in all the Country, but still thou wilt be sure to make one. Home and weed, Home and weed, with a very Vengeance.*

A Gentleman advised his Friend to chuse a Wife rather with his Ears, than with his Eyes.

*Of*

*Of Women.*

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ONE demanded of a Physician, why Men still sue to Women, and Women never to Men? He answered, *Because Women are always ready for Men, and Men not always for Women.*

A Woman, in her Anger, said, *What, I pray ye, do you doubt of my Honesty? No,* answered the other, *for it never stood in my Way.*

A Servant Girl, being in great Pain, told her Mistress she had got the Cholick. Her Mistress sent for a Physician, who, looking earnestly at her, said, *Be of good Cheer, Wench, for I'll warrant thee within these few Weeks you shall have the Cause of your Pain in your Arms.*

A Gentlewoman, hearing a Gentleman (whom the World held to be passing Unthrifthy, and full of waste Vices) talking both foolish

foolish and prophanely ; she said, *How much is the World deceived in you, that reputes you an Unthrift, when I see you are a most excellent Husband ? For you will never spend your Wit, and your Words at one Instant.*

An unchaste Woman was commanding a Man's Honesty to his Face, in honest Company. He, disdaining her Praise, as proceeding from a Woman of her Infamy, said, *I hope I was never dishonest with you, that you should thus commend me before all this good Company.*

King Edward the Fourth was wont to say, *That a Woman's greatest Difficulty is, to hold her Peace.*

A rich Man had a Daughter about thirty Years-old, who found herself greatly aggrieved that he had not all that while provided her a Husband. Upon a Time, he invited to Dinner to him his five Sons, who were all married in the same Town. Now this stale Maid, their Sister, hop'd that such their Meeting was purposely to determine upon a good Husband for her ; but it fell out otherwise, for, after Dinner, the Father said thus unto them, *Sons, I have bid you all to Dinner To-day, to the End that every one of you resolve me, where you*

H mean

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*mean to be buried when you die, or whether you think it not best that I build a Tomb for us all together ? The eldest Son, said, For my Part, Father, I desire to be buried in the Parish Church where I chance to die ; and so the rest, in a Row, all as they thought good. At last when they had all said, the Father turn'd him about to his Daughter, and asked her where she would be buried ? She answered, Faith, no where, Father, for I am like to die desperate ; and for such as die so, well you know, the Church allows them no Burial at all.*

*A lewd Gentleman, saying to a Gentlewoman, That he lov'd her as his Soul : She answered, I had rather you said, you lov'd me as your Body.*

*A Gentleman, being booted and spur'd ready to take Horse, came to take his Leave of his Mistress ; who answered, Well may you ask me Leave for the next Time, for at this Time you have taken it of yourself.*

*A Theban Lady, having slain one of Alexander's best Soldiers, was adjudged to die, both her and her whole Family ; whereupon first was executed before her Face her Children, at which she seemed not to be moved.*

moved. In the End came her dear Companion *Campaspe*, to die ; whose Death, when she saw, she burst into a Flood of Tears : At which *Alexander* ask'd her, *Why, with such Patience, she took the Death of her Children, and with such Grief the Death of a Stranger?* She answered, *That the Death of her Children had made an entire Imposthume of her whole Body, so that no Passage was able to utter it, 'till the Pity for her Friend came and broke it, making it overflow in such immeasurable Fashion.*

A Gentlewoman, in Extremity of Labour, protested, if it pleased God she might escape Death for that once, she would never in all her Life after hazard herself to the like Danger again : But being at last safely delivered, she said to one of the Midwives, *So, now put out the holy Candle, and keep it 'till the next Time.*

One saying to a Gentlewoman, *Upon my Soul, I'll do this.* She answered, *Stake down some other Pawn, for that's forfeited already.*

One being asked why he envied so sore against Women, considering that so many good Authors have from Time to Time wrote

H 2. whole

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whole Volumes in their Praises ? He answered, *They wrote what Women ought to be, but I say what they are.*

*Pedro Mexia* used to say, *That a Woman is the Heaven of Man's Eye, the Hell of his Soul, and the Purgatory of his Purse.*

The Earl of Urenia used to say, *That the virtuous Life of a Widow bridles the wicked Tongue to Silence, and spurs the Virtuous to commend her.*

A kind Wife followed her Husband to the Gallows, and he requesting her not to trouble herself any farther ; she answered, *Ab ! yes, dear Husband, now that I have brought you thus far on your Way, Faith I'll see you hang'd too, God willing.*

One commanding a proper Woman who was an errand Shrew, and withal very talkative, said, *She is even as gallant a Woman as ever I set Eye on, all but her Tongue.*

*Of*

*Of Table Matter.*

---

**A**N honest Man invited a Physician to Dinner; and, at Dinner-Time, drank to him in a Cup of Wine, whereunto the Physician excepted, and said, *That he durst not pledge him in Wine, for fear of Pimples and Inflammations in his Face.* The other answered, *A foul Ill on that Face, that makes the whole Body fare the worse.*

An Italian used to say, that Wine hath these two Discommodities with it, *If you put Water into it, you mar it; and if you put none in, you mar yourself.*

A Friend of Don *Alonso de Aguilar*, being at Dinner with him, call'd for a little Wine: Whereupon Don *Alonso* told him, *In this House, Sir, neither a little is to be demanded, nor a little to be given.*

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A Turkey-Pie had been often served in to a poor Gentleman's Board ; - and his Servant, being to serve it in again, made some Stay of it by the Way, resting it upon the Buttery-Hatch. By Chance his Master came by, and seeing it there, asked him, why he did not carry it in ? Marry, *Sir*, answered the Servant, *I thought it could by this Time have found the Way in alone.*

A Servant, by Mischance, spilt Broath on his Master's Board ; and his Master said, *Sirrah, I could have done so myself.* He answered, *No Wonder, Sir, for your Worship hath seen me do it first.*

An old Doctor complaining that having but one only Tooth left him in his Head, it was lately fallen away with eating a very ripe Fig ; another answered, *But your Tooth was a great deal riper.*

A Gentleman using to dine often with the Mayor of London, on a Time brought his Friend with him ; saying, *My Lord, here I am come a bold Guest of yours again, and have brought my Shadow with me.* The Mayor welcomed him and his Shadow, and within awhile

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awhile after he came again to Dinner, and brought two Companions with him: To whom the Mayor said, *Sir, you be heartily welcome; but I pray you tell me, do you not think it a monstrous Thing for one Body to have two Shadows?*

Old Master Palmer, of Agmerine, was a pleasant Gentleman, and being one Day at Dinner with the Duke of Somerset, no sooner was a dainty Morsel of Meat carv'd him, but straight the Servants were ready for clean Trenchers to receive it from him. At last a Lady carv'd him a Partridge-wing, and a Servant forthwith clean trencher'd him, and went away with it; which the merry Gentleman perceiving, said aloud unto all the honourable Company, *A fair Flight, Sirs; mark, mark it well.*

At a Summer's Banquet of Fruits and Sweet-Meats, a young Gentleman placed himself next to an old Man, who had scarce a Tooth in his Head, but yet the old Man out eat him: Whereupon the Youth, at rising, merrily said, *Mass, Father, of one that is no better shod, than I see you are, you have run very well To-day.*

Grapes

Grapes were set before one at the Beginning of Dinner ; and he said, *It is not good building upon a round Foundation.*

An Earl came late at Night to a Gentleman's House, and a fat Capon was serv'd up to his Supper ; which the Earl seeing, straight tink'd the Dish with his Knife, to have it set near him : Whereupon the Gentleman, then standing by, said, *Your Honour doth well to take it, for it is a Trump at this Time.*

A Man of Worship had, on the sudden, great Resort of Guests, and their Fare was but slender : Whereupon he called his Steward unto him and said, *Why how chanceth it that we have no better Fare To-day ? This Dinner is like an Apple, soon snatch'd up upon the Point of a Rapier.*

One wonted to say, *That poor Men want Meat to their Stomachs, and rich Men Stomachs to their Meat.*

One drinking to a Gentleman, and saying, *Sir, I drink to your Sister Alice, and to your Cousen Bess, and so upward to your Father, and to your Mother ; and then down*

down again to your little Brother Robert, and little Miss Frances, and the rest : He answer'd, I pledge your Pair of Stairs.

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Of Visitation.

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**SIENTO** signifies, in *Spanish*, I sit, and also I feel. A poor Gentleman came to visit a Man of Worship, and they presented him a ruinous Stool to sit upon ; which, he perceiving, stood still, refusing to sit down. The Man of Worship asking him why he stood, and requesting him withal to sit down ; he answered, *Pardon me, Sir, for no me siento* ; that is, *I do not sit*, because me siento, *viz. because I feel*. He meant that he felt himself aggrieved with the Scorn cast on him, in giving him so homely a Seat.

A Scholar, that vaunted what especial Interest he had in a certain fair Gentlewoman, went (he and his Friend) on a Time to visit her. She, in Disdain of him, still thou'd him

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him at every Word, and he as often over-rated her with Honour, Ladyship, and Majesty ; whereat the Gentlewoman being angry, asked him why he so exalted her in Title above her Calling ? He answered, *May it please you to mount but one Point higher, and then will I fall one lower, so shall our Musick well accord.*

A Courtier, being a very brave Soldier, and having fought many stout Combats, coming to visit a most pleasant Lawyer, the Lawyer's Man told his Master who was come to visit him. He instantly rose from his Study, girded his Gown about him, put on a Sword, a Rapier, Daggers and Poniards, and hung a Buckler at his Breech : Then, with a Halbard in one Hand, and a Law-Book in the other, he came forth ; and the Courtier wondering at him, he said, *Sir, I that know your several Professions, am but only provided for their several Entertainments.*

One came to speak with his Friend, who, being at that Time very busy, willed his Man to answer him that he was not within ; but he, by Chance, over-heard his Voice, and knew thereby that he was within, whereupon he departed highly displeased. The next Day this

this other came to speak with him, and, he hearing that he was come, look'd out at a Window, and told him that he was not at Home. *Not at Home, answered the other ; why, I pray, Sir, who are you ? Who am I ?* reply'd he ; *I hope I am one whom you may as well credit, saying that I am not at Home, as I to believe your Man making me the like Answer from you Yesterday.*

A Gentleman that had been long in the Indies, being returned Home with a great Scar in his Face, went to visit a Friend of his, who knew him not a good while ; till at last the Gentleman, discovering unto him his Name and Kindred, in the End he call'd him to Mind, and said, *Sir, you must pardon me ; for, I assure you, your Superscription being blurr'd, I could not well read you.*

A Gentleman, being in Conversation among many homely Gentlewomen, at last came in a very fair one ; whereat they all arose to salute her, and he said, *If this Gentlewoman had not come, we had lost the Game for want of a Court-card.*

Of

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*Of Nations and Cities.*

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**A** Spaniard, braving an *English* Soldier in the Low - Countries, said, *That in his Days he had slain as many Englishmen as he had Buttons on his Dublet.* The *Englishman* answered, *So often kiss you my Tail.*

Gonzalo Fernandes said, *That Frenchmen, at the first Encounter, are more then Men, and afterwards less than Women.*

One saying that *French Paper* was cheaper in *England* then *English Paper*: Another answered, *No Wonder, for they have more Rags to make Paper of in France, then we have here in England, by Reason they have more Beggars.*

*Isabella, Queen of Spain, hearing another City praised above Toledo, said, If it be as great*

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*great as Toledo, than is it not so strong ; and if it be so strong, than is it not so great.*

A great Clerk, being come to *Toledo*, where he noted the People very ingenious, civil and discreet, he said, *Never till now that I am in Toledo, did I think myself an errant Fool.*

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## *Of Dress.*

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**A**N elder Brother was commending his younger Brother's green Cloak, and said it became him passing well : The other answered, *But a mourning Cloak for you would become me better.*

One wore a Straw Hat in a strange Place, and the People flock'd about him, all gazing at the Novelty. At last a Churchman passed by, and being sorry to see a Stranger so gazed upon, asked him whether he had any Acquaintance thereabout or no ? Who answered, *Why ask you ? Marry, to the End, quoth*

**I** he,

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*he, if you have any, they would do well to come and defend you from these Beasts, lest they eat up all your Straw.*

A Jester, seeing a Gallant wear a little Bonnet upon his Head, with a Band to it, all beset with Gold Buttons, said, *Fout beſal the Smith that ſhod yonder Aſſ ſo cloſe.*

An upstart Gallant was attir'd in Taffety, all over figured with Flames of Fire; which a Gentleman seeing, and knowing his base Parentage, said to them in his Company, *Does not yonder Straw Cottage go in Danger of firing?*

One that, for many Years together, was never seen on the Holy-days other than in one Cloak; a Gentleman thus said merrily to him, *Never a Holy-day but I ſee Cloaks, but never ſaw I Cloak of ſo many Holy-days in all my Life.*

A great Prince, marrying a Gentlewoman of good but not equal Degree, and finding some Emulation betwixt his and her Kindred, caused his Wedding-Suit to be made of Sack-cloth cut upon Cloth of Gold, and embroidered between the Cuts this Sentence :

*Cloth*

*Cloth of Gold be thou not wrath,  
Though thou'rt matched with Sackcloth :  
Sackcloth be not thou too bold,  
Though thou'rt match'd with Cloth of Gold.*

A Gallant came to run at the Ring clad in Hair-coloured Velvet, and over it a Veil of white Taffety, girt close to him *a la Morisco*; whereupon the Emperor *Charles* asking his Jester, *What it was like?* He answered, *Like the Bowels of a Beast wrapt in its Caul.*

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*Of Officers.*

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**T**WO Felons were adjudged to die, and yet at last, through much Entreaty, it pleased the Judge to order them to the Gallies for seven Years. The Hangman seeing that, stept in and besought the Judge to rid him of his Office, and appoint some other in his Place: Being asked why? he answered, *Because you bar me of my Right.*

Thieves were rifling a Gentleman's House by Night, and the Watch came in with Torches to attack them. One of them, to save himself, struck out one of their Torches, and ran away ; but being afterwards apprehended, the Constable said unto him, *Belike, Friend, you are next Heir to the Halter, that you desir'd so much the Death of the Torch.*

A Mayor of *London* died the very same Day that he was elected, whereupon one thus merrily said, *A vigilant Mayor he was, that never slept all the Time of his Mayoralty.*

A merry Recorder of *London*, being to decide a Quarrel between two Citizens, the one called *Dunscomb*, the other *Cox*, and understanding what a paltry Matter it was, he thus jestingly said unto them, *Sirs, I very well conceive your Case, and thus I sentence it : You, Dunscomb, deliver ye up to Cox all your Comb, reserving only Duns to yourself ; so be you still a Duns, and be a Cox-comb.*

A Recorder of *London*, mistaking the Name of one *Pepper*, call'd him *Piper* ; whereunto the Party excepting, and saying, *Sir,*

*Sir, you mistake, my Name is Pepper, not Piper : He answered, Why what Difference is there, I pray thee, between Piper in Latin, and Pepper in English ; is it not all one ? No, Sir, replied the other, there is even as much Difference between them, as is between a Pipe and a Recorder.*

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### *Of Guests and Entertainment.*

---

**I**N Regard of the many Chimnies that are now-a-days built in Houses, and the slender Hospitality that is kept, a pleasant Companion said, *That Chimnies are built so cunningly now-a-days, that seldom or never they are seen to fume.*

*Fernando, King of Spain, came in Progress to the Castle of Montillia, which was newly built by one Don Alonso de Aguilera, and saying the Stairs were somewhat too straight for so stately a Building ; the Gentleman answered,*

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*And like your Majesty, I never thought so great a Guest shoud ever have mounted upon them.*

A Housholder having unruly Guests al-lotted him, said unto the Officer, *Believe me, Sir, I am greatly beholding to you for my Guests.* He ask'd him why? *Marry, because, quoth he, they are so bad, that I shall be very glad at their Departure.*

One said to his Guest, *Methinks you drink very little Wine; if all the World drunk no more than you, Wine would be very cheap.* Not so, answere the other, *rather would it be very dear; for I assure you, I drink as much as I can.*

A Spaniard travelling on the Way, alighted at a poor Inn, and they asked him his Name. He answered, *Don Pedro Gonzales Gayita de Guevara:* Whereunto they replied, *Sir, we have not Meat enough for so many.*

Of

### *Of Merchants and Misers.*

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A Merchant asked a Philosopher how he might preserve his Wealth? He answered, *Commit it not to Fortune.*

*Hernando de Pulgar* used to say, *That who so desires to be soon rich, must have two Muches and two Littles. Much Avarice, and much Diligence: Little Shame, and little Conscience.*

One passing by a miserly Merchant's new fair House, said to his Companion, *Yonder fair House is built for Wealth, not for Worship.*

A Gentleman lent a Merchant his Horse, who, at his Return, vaunted what a gallant Horse it was, and how by the Way as he rid he out-gallop'd all the Horses he over-took,

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took, and had won with him half a dozen Wagers, so swift he pac'd it, and so bravely he had put him to it. The Gentleman answered, *For such Honour let my Horse thank you.*

A miserly Merchant asking one whom he greatly disdained, how he came by so rich a Widow ? He answered, *Even as a Man may come by yours after you are dead.*

A Miser said unto his Man, *Sirrah, you had best be gone, lest I give you that you would not willingly have.* The Servant answered, *Sir, I believe you not, for you never give.*

A rich Miser had so base a Mind, that he thought all Mischiefs that befel any of his Neighbours, was in Respect that they wish'd him ill, or went about to do him some Despight. It chanced that his Man, riding in an Evening to water his Horse, both he and the Horse were unfortunately drowned : Whereupon the Miser said, *See, see, out of Doubt the Varlet hath done this to spight me.*

A miserable

A miserable Churl bestowed an old greasy Hat upon an old Servant of his, and said, *Look here, this Hat I give thee, over and above thy Wages, and see thou deserve it.* The Servant answered, *With such Gifts your Worship shall be sure to be no Loser.*

An old Miser, who us'd to grude himself Victuals, complained that he had almost lost all the Teeth in his Head: A Gentleman that stood by, answered, *That was no great Loss to him; for when he had them, he very rarely us'd them.*

A worshipful Gentleman us'd to promise much, and perform little: Whereupon a Gentlewoman merrily said unto him, *In Truth, Sir, you were even the best Gentleman in the World, if your Purse-strings were hung at your Mouth.*

A Miser had great Store of Poultry about his House, and seldom or ever kill'd any of them, but let them live their utmost Date, and so die. Being asked why he did so? he answered, *The surest Penny in my Purse, is that I do not spend.*

One

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One

One that was reputed a very rich Miser, and yet died but a poor Man, and greatly indebted; another said of him, *Sure, I had not thought he had been so honest a Man.*

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### *Of Tradesmen and Apprentices.*

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A Gentleman will'd an Arras-Maker to work him a Piece of Tapestry, figured with a fair Castle, within the Castle a Dog barking, and at the Castle-Gate a Man all in compleat Armour, brandishing in his Hand a naked Sword. The Workman wrought it, and brought it Home; which the Gentleman viewing, and missing the Dog, angrily excepted thereunto. The Workman then merrily answered, *Belike, Sir, it is now Dinner-time within the Castle, and the scurvy Cur is gnawing of a Bone somewhere in a Corner.*

One

One asked a Painter how it chanced he drew beautiful Pictures, and begot so homely Children? He answered, *I paint by Day, and beget Children by Night.*

A Tradesman fed his 'Prentice only with Livers and Lights; and, being one Day to go do a little Work out of Town, he bid his 'Prentice come to him at such a Place. He went first, and being come to the Place appointed, there he staid for his 'Prentice, whom at last he saw coming with a Load on his Shoulders; and, being come near him, he wondered thereat, and ask'd him why he brought that great Log with him? The 'Prentice answered, *So many Lights have I eaten, that I thought the open Country-Air would have carried me quite away, and therefore have I taken this Load to keep me down.*

A Raker loading a Dung-Cart, by Chance a Kite flew over him; a Taylor in the next Shop seeing it, said, *Oh! see there, Sirrah, your Fellow Scavenger.* No, answered the Raker, *Prick-Louse, it is a Buzzard, like you.*

A London

A *London* Printer sent his 'Prentice for a Mess of Mustard ; who, asking where he should fetch it, he furly answered, *In France*. *Very god, Sir*, quoth the 'Prentice ; and with that he took a Mustard-Pot in his Hand, and forth he went to *Billingsgate*, where, finding a Ship bound for *France*, he embarked therein, and to *France* he went. He remained there almost a *Year*, and at last returned Home. He came that very same Day Twelvemonth to his Master, and delivered the foresaid Pot full of Mustard ; saying, *Here, Sir, is your Mess of French Mustard.*

The said 'Prentice, entering by and by into his Master's Printing - Office, and finding a *Dutchman* there working at the Press, straight stept unto him, and snatching the Balls out of his Hands, gave him a good Cuff on the Ear, and said, *Why how now, Butter-Box ! cannot a Man so soon turn his Back to fetch his Master a Mess of Mustard, but you to step straight into his Place ?*

*Of*

### Of Jesters.

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A Droll Fellow, seeing a Painter forsake his Trade, and commence Physician ; said, *Sirrah, could not you be content with defacing human Nature in Effigy, but you must take upon you to destroy the real Flesh and Blood ?*

One asked the Marquis of *Villena*'s Jester, what Virtue he thought was in a *Turkey Stone* ? He answered, *Marry, if you should chance to fall from the Top of a high Tower, you might possibly break your Neck, and the Stone have no Hurt.*

The Marquis of *Villena* willed his Chamberlain to give his Fool *Perico de Ayala* one of his Cloth of Gold Jerkins, and the Chamberlain deliver'd him only the Sleeves and the Skirts of it. The Fool, seeing himself so treated, went straight to a Priest, and told him

K.

one

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one was deceased that Night at the Marquis of *Villena's*, and willed him to come fetch away the Body forthwith to Burial. The Priest believed him, not knowing but that he went in very Deed for a dead Body. Passing along, the Fool formost, tinkling the Bell in his Hand, as the Manner is. The Marquis hearing the Bell, look'd out at the Window, and ask'd wherefore they came thither? The Fool answered, *We come, my Lord, for the Body of the Coat you gave me, which I verily suppose is dead, because I have here some principal Members of it; without which, out of Doubt, it cannot live.*

The Emperor *Charles* being private on a Time in his Privy-Chamber, accompany'd only with his Jester, one *Romero de Figueroa*, a poor Gentleman, whose small Living lay upon the Edge of *Portugal*, came and desir'd to speak with his Majesty. The Jester told the Emperor thereof, who answered, *Bid him chuse some other Time, for I am now disposed to be private awhile. No, I beseech you, Cæsar, reply'd the Jester, let us have him in; for out of Doubt he will else, for very Anger, put up all his Lands in a Basket and fly to Portugal.*

A pleasant

A pleasant Jester, being at the Table with divers Gentlemen, amongst whom was a plain Country Gentleman, one that had a great deal more Virtue than Words ; the Jester all Dinner-Time did nothing but play upon his Plainness, and brake most bitter and unsavory Jests, which the Gentleman endured very patiently 'till Dinner was ended ; and then coming to the Jester, and taking him by the Hand, he told him he was blest in a most happy Wit : *For, Sir, said he, your Jests come from you pregnantly and sharplie, and for my own Part I could wish I had but Half your Skill therein ; only this I must let you know, that though I cannot break a Jest, yet I can break a Head as well as any Man living ;* and so drawing out his Dagger, brake the Jester's Pate, and beat him soundly.

The Wags of the Court had curtail'd a Jester's Nag, and he in Revenge thereof cut off the Upper-Lips of several Courtiers Steeds in the Lower - Court - Yard ; who, coming down from the Presence, every one to take his Horse, and laughing to see the Jester's Nag at the Court-Gate so disfigured, *Laugh on, laugh on, Sirs, said the Jester, I dare warrant ye shall see your Horses laugh anon, and out-laugh you all.*

A little Nobleman wore a broad-brim'd Hat in the Court, and a Jester seeing it, said, *Give my Lord but such another Hat below, and you may serve him up to the Emperor's Board as between two Dishes.*

A Jester used to say, that as soon as ever he perceived a Fray, he straight became a Lance-Man. Being asked how so? he answered, *Marry, I hanch forthwith into the next House.*

A Jester, meeting the Duke of *Infantasgo* between two fantastical Gallants, cry'd out aloud unto him, *My Lord, my Lord, you go in Danger!* The Duke asking him whereof? he answered, *Of drowning, were it not for those two Bladders on either Arm of you.*

A Jester, seeing an old Gentleman in the Street homely attir'd, and wearing an old-fashion'd Tablet hanging down his Breast before, said, *It is a good Letter, though interlined.*

*Of*

*Of Servants.*

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THE Duke of *Infantago* sent his Page with a Peacock, between two curious *Venice Dishes*, to the Earl of *Saldania*, and it chanced that as the Page went to show the Earl the Present, down fell the upper Dish, and broke all to Pieces. The Earl received the Peacock, and returned one of his Gentlemen with the Page, to excuse him to the Duke: Who hearing of the Mischance, all in Anger ask'd the Page how he broke it? With that, he having the other Dish in his Hand, let it fall to the Ground and broke it, and then said, *Even thus, and like your Grace, I broke it.*

A Gentleman's Cook forsook him, and went to serve another Master. The Gentleman meeting him certain Months after attir'd all in Green, said unto him, *Methinks you look very*

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*Green now - a - days. True, Sir, answer-  
ed the Cook, for I am sow'd in a good  
Ground.*

The Duke of *Infantago* sent a merry Man of his about important Busines, and by Reason of much Rain that fell that Night, a Brook which he was to pass was so swoln that he could go no farther ; whereupon he turn'd back again, without dispatching his Lord's Affair. The Duke hereat was all in a Chafe, and sore beknav'd him : Whereunto he answered, *It seems then your Grace sent me rather to dispatch myself, than your Busi-  
ness.*

A Gentleman said unto his Man, *When I leave off this Suit, I give it thee.* The next Morning the Gentleman arising, miss'd that Suit, and behold in comes his Man with it upon his Back : Which he seeing, sore beknav'd him, and would have eat him ; but the Servant said, *Why, Sir, your Wor-  
ship left it off Yesternight.*

A Gentleman and his Man passing through a Field together, a Crow in a Tree cry'd, *Kaw, Kaw.* See, quoth the Master, *yonder Crow calleth thee Knave.* No, Sir, he answered, be

*He speaks to your Worship, as to the better Man.*

An arch Fellow overtook a Coach by the Way as he rid, and ask'd the Rear-Man of the Train, what Lady or Gentlewoman it was? The Servant answered, *The Queen of Clubs.* *I thought as much,* reply'd the other, *seeing the Knave of Clubs to ride so fast after.*

A Gentleman had an errant Thief to his Man, and he, in seeming to praise his Fidelity, thus disprais'd him, saying, *Not any Thing in all my House is under Lock and Key from him, and he knows it well enough:* For indeed he had a Vice to pick open any Lock whatsoever.

A Nobleman being to pafs through a Water, commanded his Trumpeter to go before and found the Depth of it: Who answered, *I'l find the Depth of my Lungs, with all my Heart, to please your Honour; but the Devil take me if ever I found the Depth of any Water, unless it is one with which I am particularly intimate.*

One

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One asking a Servant how much his miserly Master's Revenue was ? He answered, *Able to starve a thousand Persons.*

A great Gentleman us'd much Bounty toward his rich Servants, and none at all to his poor ones. It chanced that on a Time riding through a Water, his Horse stood still and stal'd in the Midst of it: Whereupon one of his poor Servants merrily said unto him, *Your Worship resembles your Horse now, adding his Bounty to the needless Stream; all to all, and none to nothing.*

An angry Gentleman gave one of his Men two good Blows on the Ear, whereat one of his Fellows then by fell a laughing; which he perceiving, flew straight to his Master, and gave him a Box on the Ear, and said, *Sir, I return your Worship this again, to bestow upon yonder Knave that stands laughing at me.*

A Nobleman gave an old Servant of his two Boxes on the Ear; and the next Day, being displeas'd with one of his Pages, merrily then said unto him, *I pray thee restore me one of the Boxes I gave the Yesterday, to bestow*

*stow upon this villainous Boy.* He answered, *My Lord, you had as good take them both now, lest I should be absent when you want the other.*

One Gentleman was telling to another, *That his Page was run away from him, notwithstanding he had always us'd him well, both with good Cloaths to his Back, and Spending-Money in his Purse:* Whereunto the other answered, *And I, for my Part, have a poor Knav, whom I keep bare and penniless, and yet he loves me well, and will never forsake me.* *How can he forsake you, reply'd the other, having no Wings wherewith to fly away.*

A Gentleman having cudgell'd his Page for a Fault, bid him in the End put on his Cloaths and make him ready: Whereunto the Page answered, *Sir, they are the Executioner's Fee.*

An old Earl being sent for to the Court, to answer some dangerous Matter that was to be laid to his Charge, walked up and down in his Gallery all in a Dump, and thus mumbled to himself: *Good old Earl, be gone; for the Emperor, thou seest, hath sent for thee, and thou*

*thou must be at the Court within ten Days, or be reckon'd a Traytor. Go, get thee gone then, good old Earl. A Page over - hearing him, thus remumbled unto him, So shall you nevertheless, good old Earl.*

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### *Of Fools.*

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**A** Physician sent a foolish Fellow purging Pills, and he tasting and chewing one of them in his Mouth, and finding it passing bitter, spet it out again ; the rest he wrapt in a Bundle of Hay, saying, *There rest ye, 'till ye be thorough ripe.*

A Gentleman sending a Countryman of an Errand, bid him do it with great Efficacy : Who answered, *Efficacy, me no Efficacies ; for were Mr. Efficacy the Devil himself, I durst speak to him.*

The

The Emperor *Charles* was preparing to strike a Deer with a Crofs - Bow, and a simple Fellow being by, mounted upon a gall'd - back Jade, suddenly whipt from off his Horse ; and, taking of the Saddle, threw it toward the Deer, and so fray'd him away. The Emperor, angry hereat, asked him why he did so ? Whereupon the Fellow, taking the Emperor by the Sleeve and shewing him his Jade's gall'd Back, answered, *The Saddle that can do this, is it not able, trow ye, to kill a Deer ?*

A *Spaniſh* Preacher order'd his foolish Servant to go break his Fast at one *David's*, a Cook, upon his Score, mean while he went to Church to preach ; and, reciting in his Sermon a many Authorities out of Scripture, for the Probat of his Text, he said, *And now, Sirs, what says David, trow ye, to this Geer ?* Just as he said so, in stept the Servant at the Church - Door ; and, hearing him talk of *David*, answered him aloud, *Marry, no more Pies, he saith, 'till you have paid him the old Score.*

A Fool lay asleep in a Field, and had stuck his Staff in the Ground before his Face,  
to

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to fence him from the Wind. By Chance one coming by awaked him, and asked him why he had pitch'd the Staff there? He answer'd, *To defend me from the Wind. Fool*, said the other, *that cannot any at all shielde thee*. The Fool replied, *Can the Wind blow through it, trow ye?*

A Cockney, seeing a Squirrel in a Shop, greatly admir'd it, and said, *Bless me! what pretty Things are made for Money.*

A Dog had bitten a Fool, and the Fool finding him the next Day asleep in the Grass, knock'd out his Brains, and said, *He that bath Enemies, let him take Heed how and where he sleeps.*

A Serving-man was jesting with his Master's Fool, and made him believe he could cut off his Head. The Fool ran straight to his Master, and told him of it; who answered, *He shall not cut off thy Head, if he do, I'll hang him the next Day after. Nay, I pray thee*, replied the Fool, *rather hang him a Day before.*

One used to say, *That a Fool more benefits a wise Man, than a wise Man a Fool; for that*

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*that the Folly of a Fool admonisheth a wise  
Man from Folly, but a Fool cannot comprehend  
the Wisdom of the Wise.*

One used to say, *That the Difference  
between a wise Man and a Fool is, that a  
wise Man dreams but a Nights, and a  
Fool both Day and Night.*

A foolish Lackey came Home to see his Mother, and she ask'd him how he lik'd his Master? He answered, *Faith, Mother, an honest Gentleman he is; but when he rides in foul Ways, then march I fair and softly after like a King: But when he rides in fair Ways, oh! Mother, that's the Devil; then run I, then swear I my Heart out.* His Mother reply'd, *Marry then, I hope, Son, thou'l have foul Way wherever thou set thy Foot.*

In a Tumult in a Town of *Biscay*, the Mayor read the King's Proclamation thus, *King of Castile, Leon, Arragon, Navarre, &c.* Whereunto they all answered, *King and Queen, God bless them; but as for &c. the Devil take him, we'll none of him.*

Two foolish Travellers were hungry, and into a Victualling-House they went, and

L called

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called for Meat. The good Wife answered, *That she had nothing at that present but only a Couple of Honey-Combs.* Said one of them, *What's that, I pray ye? Know ye not what a Honey-Comb is?* answered the other, *I do. Go to, Hostess, fry the one, and boil the other, and bring them us presently piping hot.*

One asked a Wifeacre, who inherited all his Father's Innocence? He answered, *I, and my Brothers: But because I am eldest, the Fifteens were allotted to me.*

A simple Gentleman fell out with a Fool; and, in his Rage, ran at him with a Cudgel to beat him. The Fool turn'd his Back unto him, and leering over his Shoulder, said, *We are two, so we are; we are two.*

One asked a Fool how many Horses his Father had? He answered, *Five, with four that are dead.*

### *Of Countrymen and Clowns.*

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Several Clowns were eating a Posset together, and one of them burn'd his Chaps ; and, for very Pain, let fly a monstrous Fart, and said, *Go thy ways, thou art even the happiest Fart of all thy Fellows ; for hadst thou staid still within, thou hadst been most miserably scalded.*

A Gentleman riding on the Way, asked a poor Country Boy whose Pigs those were ? He answered, *My Mother's. Who is thy Mother ? My Father's Wife. Who is thy Father ?* He answered, *Go ask my Mother.*

A Countryman's Ass died, and he going to the next Alehouse, roar'd most piteously, and said, *Sirs, seeing my Ass is dead and gone, I know what I'll do. By Chance cer-*

L 2 tain

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tain Travellers being then there, and hearing him say so, thought verily that he meant to hang himself, and therefore for Pity's sake made him a Purse amongst them, to the Value of another Afs, wherewith he seemed well pleased. Being then ask'd what his Meaning was, when he said, *I know what I'll do?* He answered, *Marry, Sirs, to have sold my Pack-Saddle.*

One push'd a Countryman down a Pair of Stairs, and broke his Nose ; whereat he roar'd most miserably, and said, *'Twas thou, Villain, 'twas thou.* No, answered the other, *'Twas not I ; but belike you are over mellow, and so fell down of yourself.*

A crooked Country Clown, of extream rude Behaviour, was chosen by his Parishioners to sollicit their Law - Matter with their learned Counsel. Up he came to the Term, and to his Counsel he hy'd him ; who, seeing so deformed and slovenly a Fellow, excepted unto him, and said, *What a Devil art thou the only sufficient Man of all thy Parish to follow this Matter ?* The Clown answered, *As for the Matter, Sir, I cannot tell ; but as for your Worship, they have thought me good enough to come to you.*

A Countryman

A Countryman lent his Neighbour an Ass, and he neglected to return him Home at the Day appointed, so the Party was fain to go fetch him himself; and when he came the other denied that the Ass was yet come Home, and made many trifling Excuses to detain him awhile longer. In the mean time the Ass bray'd in the Stable, whereby his Master knew that he was there, who then waxed very angry with his Neighbour for so abusing him: Whereunto the other, in a Rage, answered, *Gad's Nouns, will you believe your Ass before me?*

A Countryman drove his Ass before the Court-Gate, and a Gentleman or two of the Court, seeing him to beat and misuse the poor Beast, bid him be more mild and patient, and favour the filly Ass. With that the Clown straight doft his Hat, and made a low Bow to the Ass, and said, *I beseech your good Worship, pardon my Rudeness all this while, for I never thought that you had Kindred in the Court before now.*

A Gentleman married a Farmer's Daughter, of whom afterward he grew weary and discontented: And on a Day, in a sullen Mood,

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he ask'd her how many Burthens of Straw her Father us'd to serve his Beasts every Winter ? She answered, *Before you married me, three Hundred ; and since three Hundred and Fifty, by Reason he bath one Beast now more than he had.*

A Gentleman riding through a Village, ask'd a Countryman what a Clock it was ? He answered, *We have no Clock, Sir, but we have a Pair of Organs.*

A Felon that was hanged, was carried back again to the Town to be buried, and many People stood gazing upon the Corps. By Chance a simple Country Fellow coming by, and seeing them so gaze, said unto them, *Away, away, Sirs, for Shame ; you are able to put the honest Man beside his Wits, to gape and gaze so on him.*

A Traveller being come to a Pond, ask'd a Countryman whether it were passable or no ? Who answered, *Yes, Sir, you may pass it very well.* With that the Traveller plunging thereinto, stuck fast, and had much-a-do to get out again ; but at last getting out, he swore heartily at the poor Swain, and would have beaten him ; who answered, *Truly, Sir, all*

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*all my Neighbour Ball's Geese and mine pass  
over it every Day.*

A plain Fellow took up an Afs at Trust of his Neighbour for certain Months, at six Crowns Price. It chanced within that Time the Afs died, and he not being able to pay the Debt, fled the Country and embarked for *India*: Where having remained the Space of seven Years, and being worth two Thousand Crowns, had Thoughts of returning Home; and landing at *Seville*, wrote a Letter from thence to his Wife, declaring both his Return, and his Riches. She, in her Answer thereof, advised him, if he meant to come to her, to do it very privately, for that the Owner of the forefaid Afs was yet living.

• A rich Farmer coming to pay his Landlord much Rent, by Chance a Neighbour of his meeting him at the Door; and, knowing his Busines, said unto him, *You enter in like a Banker, but you shall come out like a Bankrupt.*

A Collier, selling a Sack of Coals to a Citizen's Wife, by Chance an old Frying-pan lay by. She asking him whether his Coals were Oaken Coals or no? he straight took up

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up the said Frying-pan, and gave it her in her Hand ; faying, *Fry some of them, and you shall see.*

A Countryman was lopping of a Tree, and down he fell and broke his Neck. The Clown, his Man, straight ran Home, and told his Dame of it ; and, telling her a long Tale, both how he advised him to stand fast, and how dangerously he stood upon the Tree, and how he fell down with the Axe in his Hand ; at last he concluded, *And I assure you, Dame, it was a great Mercy that be cut not himself with the Axe.*

A plain Country Fellow, being to travel Homeward from the Term, and passing along London Streets, ask'd of the Shop-men and others whom he met, *Which is the Way to Wakefield ?*

A Gentleman asking a plain Fellow of the Country, in a rainy Morning, whether he thought it would not prove a fair Day for all that ? - *Marry, Sir, he answered, that shall I shew you at Night.*

*John a Nokes* was driving his Cart toward Croydon, and by the Way fell asleep therein :  
Mean

Mean time a Thief came by and stole away his two Horses, and went quite away with them. In the End he awaking, and missing them, said, *Either I am John a Nokes, or I am not John a Nokes. If I am John a Nokes, then have I lost two Horses; and if I be not John a Nokes, then have I found a Cart.*

A Gallant alighting at a Country Inn, took his Horse to a Countryman to walk; who seeing so brave a Horse, and many rich Trapplings about him, ask'd the Gallant whether it were one Man's Labour to walk so trim a Horse as that? *Yes*, answered the Gallant, *I warrant thee one Man alone may do it. Say you so, Sir?* replied the Peasant, *then hold here, you may even walk him yourself.*

One meeting a Welchman, carrying a Hare at his Back, asked him how he would sell it? He answered, *I will not sell it, but give me a Shilling and take it.*

A Country Woman huffed her Daughter for gadding up and down among Alehouses; and she answered, *Indeed, Mother, I cannot blame you, though you be jealous of me, for I have often heard that I was your Daughter before you were married to my Father.*

A Countryman

A Countryman standing at a Mark, an Arrow lighted on his Nose, and spitted it through : At last the Archer coming to the Mark to take up his Arrow, the Swain met him with it in his Hand, and asked him whether it were his Arrow ? *Yea, he answered, where had ye it ? Marry, see here,* replied the Swain, pointing to his Nose, *you have made me a proper Nose so you have : Indeed, if you serve me so any more, I shall certainly break your Arrow.*

An Alehouse Groom came to a Gentleman's House in the *Christmas* Time, and there in the Hall fell a playing on his Bagpipe. The Gentleman passing by, he ask'd him how his Worship lik'd his Musick ? He answered, *Marry, not Half so well as in an Alehouse.*

A Country Woman was commending what a goodly Child God had sent her Neighbour that Night ; and said, *It is even as goodly a Child, God bless it, as the Queen and the Council.*

A Countryman passing through a Street in London, stumbled and his Backside fell to the Ground.

Ground. A 'Prentice seeing it, fell a laughing, and said, *See, see, Fellow, how fine London is, it brooks no such Clowns as you.* With that the Countryman turn'd back, and answered, *As fine as it is, it hath kiss'd my Tail for this once.*

A Clown saying to his Wife that she had as many Lives as a Cat ; she answered, *And you but one, and too many by that.*

A Countryman passing along the Street, met with a Carr, and the Horse spying his bouncing Beard, snap'd at it, instead of a Bottle of Hay ; upon which the Countryman said, *The Devil take thee ; who made thee a Barber ?*

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Of Thieves.

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TWO Thieves were apprehended for a Robbery, and being tormented to confess the Fact, the one did so, and was hanged : The

The other endured most horrible Pains, and never would confess any Thing, notwithstanding the most plain Proofs that were produced against him. Now, the Law of *Spain* is, that if a Man, by Extremity of Torture, cannot be brought to confess his felonious Fact, he is to be absolv'd, notwithstanding what evident Matter soever come in against him. This Felon being then absolv'd, and set at Liberty, chanced to be certain Days after in the Company of some of his good Friends; and they wondering how, in so clear a Case as that, he had the good Hap to escape the Gallows: He answered, *Marry, thus; my Fellow and I, whilst he liv'd, made this Covenant between us, that whosoever of us, as we travelled on the Way, should first chance to discover an Alehouse, he was to pay the whole Shot, and the other to go Scot free. Now, as ye all know, he discovered first and foolishly, and so hath paid the Shot for us both.*

An old Woman was whipt at a Cart's Tail for Witchcraft; and, after all was done, the Beadle demanded of her his Fees and Charges: Namely, he reckoned unto her (amongst other Things) what the Paper and the Picture she wore on her Forehead cost him. *Too dear a Paper,*

*Paper, said the Witch, but take thy Reckoning now, and keep that Paper till the next Time.*

A Passenger complained to a Captain how certain of his Soldiers had robbed him of all that ever he had: Whereunto the Captain answered, *Tell me, Friend, wore you that Doublet when they robb'd you?* He answer'd, Yes. Then get you gone, said the Captain, *for well I wot had they been my Soldiers, they would have left you never a Rag to your Back.*

A Murderer, being condemn'd to die, said unto the Judges, *Faith, Sirs, I see you would make a proper Piece of Work of it, if a Matter of Weight lay on your Hands, that thus for a Trifle you condemn me to die.*

A Felon, being burnt in the Hand for his first Offence, one asked him some Days after, how he had sped? He answered, *Marry, the whole Matter was referred even to my own handling.*

A Ruffian and a Wench were to be whipt at a Cart's Tail in Seville; and the Wench being

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brought out of the Jail, and meeting her said Mate at the Cart before her, said unto him, *For your sake, Sir Knavè, come I hither to be whipt, and dishonoured To-day.* He answered, *Gad's Nouns, Whore, and where am I, I pray thee?*

A Felon being to suffer, a Maid came to the Gallows to beg him for her Husband, according to the Custom of Spain in that Case. The People seeing this, said unto the Fellow, *Now praise God, that he hath thus mercifully preserved thee; and see thou ever make much of this kind Woman, that so friendly saves thy Life.* With that the Felon viewing her, and seeing a great Scar in her Face, which did greatly disfigure her, a long Nose, thin Lips, and of a sour Complexion, he said unto the Hangman, *On, my good Friend, and do thy Duty. I'll none of her; a bad Minute is better than a bad Life.*

A Felon that had lost one of his Ears for his former Fact, and was condemned the second Time to lose the other, his Hair was so over grown and hung so wildly about his Face, that the Hangman could not readily find his Ear, and was threat Half angry: Which the Felon

Felon seeing, was no less choleric, and said,  
*Gad's Nouns, Villain, am I bound to find thee  
Ears every Sessions?*

Two Thieves came by Night to rob a Merchant's Shop, and it chanced that a Boy lay there that Night; who, over-hearing their Attempt, said unto them, *Sirs, get you gone, and come again anon, for I am not yet asleep.*

An Officer passing along the Street in an Evening, saw three or four Fellows carrying a Chest, and certain loose Plate out of a House, and he asked them whose Goods they were? They answered, *Those of yonder House, where you saw us come out; which we carry to another House, because the good Man there is even now dead of the Plague, and his Household removes forth-with:* Then the Officer asked them, *How it chanced that none of the House stood weeping at the Street-Door?* such being the Spanish Manner in that Case. They answered, *I warrant ye, you shall see weeping Eyes enough there To-morrow:* And so he did indeed; for, walking that Way in the Morning, he saw the good Wife weeping at her Door for the Loss of her Plate and other rich Goods, which they had carried away in that Chest.

A Felon at the Bar pleading eagerly in his Defence, and seeing the Judge busy in Talk with one that came and delivered him a Message, said unto him, *I pray, my Lord, tend to your Justice, and let that Knave alone 'till another Time:* Whereunto the Judge answered, *Fear not, Sir Knave, I warrant you, I'll see to you well enough.* The Felon reply'd, *I had rather you did not see me at all; but, seeing you do, I had rather you saw me less and heard me more.*

A Countryman being set upon by a Thief, was so light of Foot that he escaped from him: Which the Thief perceiving, and being quite out of Hopes to overtake him, stood still, and fell extreamly a laughing to himself. The Countryman then turning back, and seeing him so merry, thought haply that he was some old Acquaintance of his grown out of Remembrance, that in Jest had all that while pursu'd him, and in that Conceit came towards him; and still the Thief laugh'd more and more, as seeming his Acquaintance. When he was come quite close to him, suspecting no Danger, the Thief demanded his Purse, and robb'd him of a good round Sum; saying, *If your Wit had been as quick as your Heels, I had never obtain'd this Booty.*

**A Thief**

A Thief at the Gallows said unto the Hangman, *Villain, better be hang'd, than be a Hangman, like thee.* True, answered the Hangman, *were it not for hanging.*

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*Of Sharpers.*

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A Sharper, not knowing where to go dine, went to the Sheriff of *London* about Dinner Time, and espying his Opportunity, stopt to him and said, *I pray you, Sir, what may a Wedge of Gold thus long be worth?* The Sheriff straight thinking that he had found some such great Piece, took him by the Hand, had him in to Dinner with him, and carv'd him of the choicest Meats upon the Board. After Dinner was done, the Sharper arose with the rest, and, after having reverendly thanked the Sheriff for his good Cheer, offer'd to be gone: With that the Sheriff call'd him back

again, and question'd him aside about the foresaid Wedge of Gold ; affirming, that if he would sell it, he would give him more for it than any Man. Then the full-belly'd Fellow, belching in the Sheriff's Face, answered, *In Truth, Sir, I thank you, I have no such Matter ; only I thought good to ask you afore hand what such a Wedge might be worth, if in Case I should hereafter chance to find any such to bring you.*

A Sharper, having made merry in an Inn, and wanting wherewith to discharge the Shot, step'd over the Way to a Barber's Shop, and would needs be trim'd. The Barber trim'd him, and, when he had done, the Sharper took a Lute of his in his Hand, and began to fumble thereon, and fumbled himself quite out of Doors, bidding the Barber to come after him to Breakfast, where he would discharge both him and his Hostess together. The Barber believed him, and let him have away his Lute with him ; and, by Reason he staid somewhat long after, the Sharper in the mean time left the said Lute in pawn for his good Cheer, and rid clean away.

The said Sharper, making merry with a Wench in a Tavern, and wanting Money, as before,

before, to discharge the Reckoning, sent for Musicians to play to him as he was at Dinner; and, after Dinner was done, sent away the Wench privately, under Colour to call for a Reckoning, he only and the Musicians remained there. Anon, after seeming to wonder why she staid so long, he said unto the Musicians, *Play on, Sirs, awhile, 'till I go down and see what the Matter is that they are so long about the Reckoning; I'll come again presently.* So down he went, and they below suspecting no such Matter, by Reason they heard the Musicians still playing above, he flunk quite and clean away, leaving the Musick only to pay the Shot.

Two Sharpers came in an Evening to a Tavern, and watching their Opportunity, the one of them slipt off his Cloak to his Fellow, and tucking on an Apron before him, stept into a lower Room where certain Gentlemen were at Supper, and, in Resemblance of a Servant of the House, whipt away a rich Salt from off the Table, under Pretence that he wanted it for certain Knights, who were then come thither to Supper, leaving a Pewter one in Lieu of it; and so slipt clean away therewith, and was never heard of more.

A Merchant

A Merchant sat in a Summer's Evening at his Street-Door, and a Sharper came dress'd like a Taylor, and doing Obeisance unto him, offered to step into his House. The Merchant asking him, *What he would have?* He answered, *And please you, Sir, your Maid will'd me to fetch a Gown of her's to mend; I pray, can ye tell if she be within? Go in and see,* answered the Merchant. So in went the Sharper, and meeting with one of the Merchant's Men, told him that he came for one of his Master's Gowns to mend, named the Gown, and will'd him to deliver it him presently. The Fellow believing him, the rather because his Master sat at the Door and saw him come in, and it was also likely that he would not so peremptorily demand it but upon a good Ground, deliver'd him the Gown without any more ado; who straight whipt out of Doors with it under the Merchant's Nose, giving him only a cogging Congee, and a bare by your Leave, Sir, as he pass'd by.

A Sharper, hooking in the Night-Time in at a Gentleman's Chamber-Window, fasten'd his Hook by Chance upon his Bed-Cloaths; wherewith the Gentleman awaking, and perceiving

ceiving what the Matter was, softly unfasten'd the Hook, and withal took hold of it with his Hand, permitting himself as it were to be drawn by it. The Sharper, thinking he had fasten'd upon a Prize, drew still, and still the Gentleman followed his Twitches, 'till at last the Sharper, thinking to unfasten the Booty, the Gentleman caught him by the Hand, and with his Dagger would have stabb'd him, had he not cry'd *Peccavi*. So was this Sharper catch'd in his own Train.

A great Number of Emmets lay upon a Vine-yard, and sore spoil'd the Vines. A Beggar by Chance coming that Way, and hearing thereof, undertook only for ten Days Victuals to destroy them all: Then made he a little Leather Bag, and sew'd within it a Scroll, as it might seem a Charm, and buried it in the highest Plot of the Vineyard, and so let it lie. At the ten Days End away he got him, and was never seen more of them, glad that he had so well victual'd himself at a Fool's Charge. At last, the Bag being taken out of the Earth, and unript, the Scroll there inclos'd was to this Effect:

*You that are hungry, learn ye of me ;  
For, if you have Wit, you may get Victuals  
free.*

*Of*

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*Of Beggars.*

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ONE offer'd a Beggar a Benefit, and he of Daintiness refus'd it : Then the other asked him whether he could bestow such another Benefit on him ? *Oh ! no, he answer'd, I am not so able ; would I were. Then hold here, replied the other, refuse not a Benefit at thy Better's Hand, who can, and will afford it thee.*

A Constable asked a poor Fellow on the Way, whereof he lived ? He answer'd, *If your Question were whereof I die, I could better resolve you ; for I die of Hunger.*

A Gentleman gave a Beggar a Penny, and the Beggar said, *What ! such a Gentleman as you give a poor Man but a Penny ? One Penny more to your poor Brother, for God's sake. Thy Brother ! quoth the Gentleman, how so ? Marry, in Adam, answer'd the Beggar ;*

Beggar ; with that the Gentleman laugh'd, and reply'd, *If all thy Brothers in Adam would give thee but as much, thou wouldst soon be the richest Prince in the whole World.*

A Miser misusing a poor Creature very grossly, the poor Man said, *I may be rich, and you may be poor: I may rise, and you may fall; for you are high, and I am low.*

A Spanish Soldier returning from the rich Wars of *Lombardy*, being but a Beggar's Son, and born in a most barren Heath, where was not so much as Water many Miles off, and where dwell'd only some half dozen Shepherds and Colliers, besides his Father, the richest of them being scarce worth three Farthings. This Gallant flauntingly returned Home to *Spain*, and recounting the rich Wars of *Lombardy* in all Places where he came, was asked why he would leave such gallant Wars and come Home ? He answered, *For the Love of my Country.*

Of

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*Of Tergiversation.*

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A Gentleman taking his Leave of a Gentlewoman, said, *May it please you to will me any Service?* She answered, *No, I do not yet make my Will.*

One Beast was suspected to have cowardly beaten and bruised a weaponless poor Fellow by Night, and he stoutly denying it before a Justice, a Gentleman that stood by said, *Out of Doubt if a Beast did it not, it was done like a Beast, whoever did it.*

Certain Gentlewomen were eating of a Poffet, and they all commended how good it was. A Gentleman of the Company, for Contradiction sake, said, *No, it is not good:* Whereunto one of the Gentlewomen answered, *You say what it is not, but you do not say what it is.*

A Gentlewoman

A Gentlewoman that had two Sweethearts, the one called *Spot*, the other *Fuller*. One merrily said of her, *Having a Fuller, I wonder she can have any Spot.*

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Of extravagant Speeches.

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ONE being in Danger of drowning, another standing on the Shore said unto him, *Get to yonder stooping Tree, and you are safe.* Tut, he answered, tell not me of getting or gaining, for I care but only to save myself at this Time.

A Spanish Gentleman looking out at his Window after a Corps that was carried out of his House to be buried, said, *Oh! how hard a Matter were it to thrust me out of House, seeing to carry a dead Man hence is four Mens Labour?*

N

A Father

A Father coming to see his Son drest of a Wound in the Face, said, *It would not have griev'd me Half so much if it had been in the Arm, or in the Leg, or in any other Place but there.* The Son answered, *Oh ! Father, Receivers are no Chusers.*

One asking his Friend whether his Brother were yet alive ? He answered, *No, nothing lively, but a very Lubber.*

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*Of Evasions and Excuses.*

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A Weaver that us'd to steal Yarn, had a privy Place in his House where to hide it, which he call'd Hell. He, whenever any of his Masters charged him with any such Theft, us'd thus to protest, *If I have any more than my Due, I hope in Hell I may find it.*

At

At the Change of Religion here in *Eng-*  
*land*, one Doctor *Morgan* was depos'd from  
his Cure, to give Place to the Ministry. It  
chanced that being invited certain Days after  
to a Dinner, whereat were present certain  
Justices, and a many other worshipful Guests,  
he thus at Dinner-Time mumbled unto him-  
self ; *And is it even so, Morgan ? Faith,*  
*have they so hardly dealt with thee ? Well,*  
*I assure them, it shall cost many a Man's*  
*Life for it, ere I have done.* Such his  
Mumblement being over-heard, came after-  
wards in Question to his Danger, as seeming  
to proceed of a treasonable Discontent with  
the present State ; and, being brought to his  
Answer, he thus justified his Speech, saying,  
*I confess I speake the Words, and it is true*  
*that the Loss of my Benefice is like to cost*  
*many a Man's Life ; for, having now no*  
*other Trade to live by than Physick, wherein*  
*as yet I am altogether unskilful, it is likely*  
*that my too timely Practice will be the*  
*Death of many a one.*

A Madman rush'd into a Chamber with a  
drawn Sword, and finding one there a Bed,  
would have slain him ; saying, *Villain, were*  
*it not valiantly done to strike off thy Knave's*

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*Head at one Blow.* The other answered, *Tut, Sir, that's nothing with your Worship to do, you can as easy strike off two Heads at one Blow as one; wherefore, if you please, I'll go down and call up another, that you may strike off both our Heads at once.* The Madman believed him, and by this Artifice he got away.

A Nobleman called a Doctor errant Knavery; and the Doctor answered, *Good, my Lord, I would be loth to be so errant a Knavery as your Lordship* (hereat he made a Pause, as feigning to spit, and then proceeded) *takes me to be.*

One being reprehended for living too slothfully: He answered, *We are not bound to give Account of our Sloth, but of our Labours.*

One saying to his Friend, *Faith, having so much Interest in such a Gentleman as you have, methinks you might easily bridle his Passions.* He answered, *I am no Horse-courser.*

A Clown having surfeited of Beef, and being therewith extream sick, vow'd never whilst he liv'd to eat Beef more, if he might escape for that

that once. Shortly after, having his perfect Health again, he would needs have eaten Beef; and his Sister putting him in Mind of his Vow, he answered, *True, Sister, not without Mustard; I grant you, not without Mustard.*

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*Of Sense revers'd, by Identity  
of Speech.*

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**A** Poor Carpenter, yet a good Workman, was employed in building of a Bridge, wherein he became so good a Gainer, that it set him up for ever; and in one of the main Posts thereof he had engraven these Words, *Sanchio Rodriguez made this Bridge.* Another came after, and wrote underneath with a Coal, *This Bridge made Sanchio Rodriguez.*

One called another Fool; who answered, *Indeed, so may I seem, because I speak in such Sort as you may understand me.*

One chiding his Son for lying long a Bed in the Mornings, told him, *That Such-a-one, with rising early in a Morning, chanced to find a Bag of Gold.* The Son answered, *Too early rose he, Father, that lost it.*

One seeing an old Petty-fogger in the Street, writing down a Memorandum in his Note-Book, said unto him, *Why how now, Grand-father, what a Scribbling make you there?* He answered, *I register such Knaves as you.*

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### *Of Drunkards.*

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A Gentleman's Man was a great Drunkard, and falling off a Ladder broke his Nose, so that he was fain to wear a Plaister thereon, so large that it covered his Nose all over; which his Master seeing, asked him how it came to pass? One of his Fellows then standing by, answered, *And like your Worship, be*

*he is fain to case his Nose, as you see, for  
fear of running it against Taverns.*

A great Drunkard, lying sick of a burning Fever, said unto his Physician, *I would have you cure my Heat, but not my Thirst.*

A Doctor of Physick advised a great Drunkard that had but one Eye, to beware of Wine, lest he lost the other. He answered, *Nay, better destroy a Window than a whole House.*

A Drunkard passing over a Bridge, his Eyes so glar'd that he thought they were two Bridges, and stepping upon the wrong Bridge, down he tumbled in the Brook; where, drinking his Bellyful of Water, he remained, saying, *No more now Hostess, no more now.*

One put a Frog into a *Dutchman's Pot*, and he drinking swallowed it clean down. Being asked whether he felt not any Thing in his Draught? he answered, *No, nothing but a little Mote.*

Of

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*Of Noses.*

---

ONE had a Nose like a Bunch of Grapes, and, passing along the Street, two Women met him, and seeing such a Nose stood still awhile and gazed thereupon. He asking them why they stood still, and went not about their Business? they answered, *Because your Nose stands in our Way.* With that he wry'd his Nose aside with his Finger, and said, *On, ye Strumpets; for behold, now Way is made for ye.*

One that had a mighty Nose and a very thin Beard, another commented thereupon; saying, *That the Shadow of his Nose hinder'd the Growth of his Beard, as doth the Shadow of the Dock the growing up of the Nettle.*

In Spain it is a Law, all Swords and Rapiers to be of one Length. A huge-nos'd Constable took

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took one with a Rapier above the allow'd Measure, and took it from him, caused it to be cut shorter, and then delivered it him again ; saying, *Know ye now from henceforth, that the Law allows all too much to be diminished.* The other answered, *Diminish then your Nose.*

One seeing a great Drunkard with a huge Nose beset with Pimples, Blue and Red, said, *It was the Spirit of the Wine ascended into the Region of his Nose.*

Sir *Thomas Moore's* Lady was very curious and neat in her Attire, and, going one Day to Church, she bid her Gentlewoman look whether her Gown-pleats stood even behind, and whether all were well and right about her. Sir *Thomas* himself then standing by, and noting her Curiosity, and withal her wry Nose, said, *Faith, Wife, there is yet one Fault more than your Maid sees ; neither do I well see how it can be alter'd.* She being then very earnest with her Gentlewoman to find it out, and Half out of Patience that she was so long a looking it, at last asked Sir *Thomas* what Fault it was ? He merrily answered, *Your Nose.*

*Of*

*Of Breath.*

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A Great toasted Cheese Eater had baited his Trap with Cheese, and another seeing it, said unto him, *What need you bait your Trap with Cheese? Do you but sleep with your Mouth wide open a Nights, and all the Mice in the Chamber will enter thereinto.*

One asking a Sharper's Man, *How it chanced his Breath stunk so sore?* He answered, *With keeping my Master's Counsel.*

*Of*

### *Of Faces and Scars.*

---

A Gentleman, not the best favour'd, came early in a cold Winter's Morning to visit a Gentlewoman ; and, "by Reason the Frost had sore nipt his Nose, and somewhat bluely disfigured it, she said unto him, *Lord, Sir, how ill-favouredly you look this Morning?* He answered, *Faith, Madam, neither of us took very well, when we are at the best.*

One that with over-much Fasting and austere Life, had wrought himself exceeding pale and lean in the Cheeks ; another seeing him, said, *Bless me, how yonder poor Wretch hath terrified himself with Fasting !*

A Gentleman entering into a Prison to visit a Friend of his, the Porter, who had a great Scar in his Face, demanded his Weapon. The Gentleman gave it him, saying, *Hold here, Friend, and see thou make much of it, for I assure*

*assure thee, it is not it that did thee that Disgrace, pointing to his Face.*

A Gentleman saying to a foul-fac'd Fellow,  
*How like you yonder Maid?* He, seeing  
 her ill-favour'd, answered, *Just as well as  
 your Worship likes me.*

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*Of Fatness and Leanness.*

---

ONE Hoops was apprehended upon Suspicion of Felony, and two very big Men came to bail him. The Justice, being thick of Hearing, ask'd an Officer what they said? Who answered, *Marry, Sir, these Tubs are come for Hoops.*

A big Justice going in Circuit, a plain Countryman came to him, and said, *I humbly beseech your Highness to do me Justice.* He answered, thou hadst said better, *My Bigness, for thou seest I am not very high.*

One

One asked an aged Man, *How it chanced that, being of those Years, he continued so fat withal.* He answer'd, *Never was I yet a Husband or a Servant.*

A Gentlewoman commanding a Gentleman to his Face, and saying, *That he was a goodly big Man.* He answered, *All that is Great is not Good, but all that is Good is Great.*

One seeing a big fat Gentleman and a lean Gentlewoman standing together, said, *Bebold Shrove-tide and Lent.*

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*Of Crookedness and Lameness.*

---

**T**HE Duke of *Medina* having a crook'd-back Lady to his Wife, ask'd his Jester on a Time *What he thought of his stately new Hall at Madredejos?* The Jester answer'd,

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*ed, A stately Hall indeed, my Lord, yet  
cannot my Lady stand upright therein.*

A crook-back'd Plaintiff besought a Judge to do him Right, and the Judge answered, *Weil may I hear you, but Right I cannot do ye.*

A Man, blind of one Eye met his hunch-back'd Neighbour early in the Morning, and said unto him, *Good Morrow, Neighbour, what your Burthen on your Back so soon in a Morning?* The Hunch - back answered, *If it be Morning, as you say, how chances it you have but one Window yet open?*

Somebody having stolen away a stump-footed Fellow's Shoes ; he said, *I hope who-ever hath them, well may they fit him.*

One seeing a very mishapen'd crooked Person in the Street, said, *That he had a Camel to his Nurse.*

A Captain discharging a lame Soldier out of his Band, the Soldier, angry thereat, said unto him, *The War needs no Men that can run away, but such as can bide by it.*

*Of*

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Of Children.

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**A** Noble Gentleman used to say, *That he is luckily unlucky that bath no Children.*

One who had eight Daughters, and whose Wife was brought to bed of a Ninth, so soon as it was christened it died. He seeming to take it very heavily, a Friend of his came to comfort him, and said, *Having so many fair Daughters besides, what need you lament so grievously for the Loss of one?* He answered, *Oh! give me Leave, for this was truly a good one.*

One forgot to give his little Child Meat at Dinner, whereupon the Child pray'd him to give him some Salt. *Salt, said the Father, and wherefore Salt, my Boy? Marry, Father, answered he, for the Meat you are to give me.*

A School-master, whose Name was *Salter*, read *Terence* to his Scholars in a Country Parish; and a Man and his Wife were at Odds about their Pottage at Dinner-time, he finding

fault that they were too salt, and she affirming that they were too fresh. At last the Man said to his Son there at Dinner with them, *Tell me, Jack, how sayest thou? are these Pottage fresh or salt?* The Boy answered, *They may very well read Terence, Father.*

One that took upon him much Gentry, and was no Gentleman, his little Sons were a tumbling in a Heap of Straw in the Street; which a Gentleman, a Neighbour of his, seeing out at his Window, said unto his Wife, *I were a good Deed yonder unlucky Ones were whipp'd: See how they tumble and bedust themselves in the Straw.* She answered, *No, let them alone, for it fair betokens their Descent.*

One said to his Acquaintance, *I greatly wonder that you are no richer, because I know you may spend Eight Shillings a Day, though you don't spend above Two.* The other answered, *Two I pay, Two I lend, Two I spend, and Two I lose. The Two I pay, are those I allow my poor Father and Mother toward their Maintenance. The Two I lend, are those I allow for my Son's Education in the University, which I hope he will one Day repay me again (if I live so long) as now I do unto my Father. The Two I spend, are upon myself, my*

*my Wife, and Family. The Two I lose, are those my Wife spends every Day in Toys and Baubles upon herself, which I never look for more.*

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### Of Age.

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**O**N E that had a white Head and a black Beard, was ask'd, *How it came to pass?* He answered, *Marry, the Hair of my Head is twenty Years older than my Beard.*

One used to say, *That a Man being once arrived to Fifty, ought rather bethink himself to receive Death well, than to enlarge his Life longer.*

One meeting an old Man all trembling on his Staff, said unto him, *The House that is once come to prop, is near falling.*

One wonted to say, *That of all Avarice the old Man's is worst; seeing that to hoard up Treasure in the Age of Death, when a Man is not likely to live to spend it, is extream Folly.*

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An old Gentleman wonted to say, *That three Things were increas'd unto him by old Age, viz. To see more, to do more, and command more.* *To see more, by Reason he was fain to use Spectacles to make his Letters seem the greater.* *To do more, in that alighting off his Horse, he was ready to draw the Saddle after him.* *To command more, for that he was fain to speak twenty Times, before he could get his Men to stir.*

An old Man, viewing himself in a Looking-glass, all wrinkled and hoary, his Eyes deep sunk into his Head, and his Cheeks also for want of Teeth, said, *Lord, to see the Difference of Looking-glasses!* *I remember, when I was a young Man, I took Pleasure to view myself in a Glass, so well were they made in those Days.*

An old Gentleman's young Rival in Love, meeting him in a Morning, said unto him, *Old Sir, sweet Love beseems not your Years.* He answered, *If you mean it by me, know ye, that in my Country, a Man of fifty Years is accounted younger than an Ass of Fifteen.*

*Of*

*Of Sickness.*

---

A Delicate Gentleman, fancying himself somewhat distempered, sent for his Physician, who came anon after to visit him, and ask'd *How he did?* He answered, *Sick.* *How feel you your Stomach?* *Well.* *Is it even so?* Then, said the Doctor, *are you sick with eating well, and sleeping well?* *I'll give you somewhat shall soon remedy all that.*

A rich Farmer bestow'd his Daughter upon an old, poor and sickly Gentleman, and coming on a Time to visit him sick a Bed, he met his Daughter at the Chamber - Door ; and, asking her how her Husband did ? She answered, *Do as he may for me, Father : You, for your Part, to endow me with his Blood, have undone my Flesh.*

A Gentleman

A Gentleman being extream sick, his Kinsman will'd him in any Case to send for a Physician. He answered, *No, I pray, let me die at Leisure.*

A Gentleman being sick of the Dropsy, call'd for a Draught of Water, and his Physician will'd him in any Case to forbear, affirming that he could not live above two Hours at the most: *Oh, answered the Gentleman, then will I dive those two Hours in Water.*

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### *Of Tallness and Littleness.*

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**T**WO Sisters being in Place together, whereof the Younger was tall and a Maid, and the other a Wife and great with Child, a Gentleman in the Company said unto the Elder, *How chanceth it your younger Sister outgroweth you in Height?* She answered, *Because I out-grown her in Thickness.*

An

An exceeding tall Man presenting his Service to a great Prince, the Prince began to admire at his Hugeness ; and he, to make himself less monstrous, said, *And please you, Sir, I have a Brother who doth far exceed me in every Proportion. What, said the Prince, had you a Giant to your Father ?*

A very little Gentleman riding on the Way, out-rid his Men a considerable Way. They meeting with a Traveller, ask'd him, *Whether he met not such a Gentleman before ?* He answered, *Not any ; only I met, some half Mile hence, a Horse that carried a Hat upon the Saddle-Pummel, and a Boot hanging down on either Side.*

A little Courtier ran best at Tilt before the Emperor *Charles*, and the Wags of the Court said, *That the paltry Ape did best.*

One seeing a Dwarf in the Street of forty-four Years old, said, *If he be as long a going from a Man as he is growing to a Man, out of Doubt the Ape will never die.*

A little pretty Soldier dismounted his Foe, and said, *Now yield, or die.* The other looked

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looked round about him, and answered, *I see not to whom.*

One being asked *Why he married so little a Wife?* He answered, *Of Evils, the least is best.*

Of one that was a very tall big Man, another said, *He was good to make a Porter; because if he should chance to find the Door shut below, he might discharge his Pack in at the Garret Window.*

A tall personable Man offered to accompany a Dwarf in the Street; saying, *That the People would the less gaze and wonder at his miserable Littleness.* The Dwarf answered, *Rather will they wonder at my Folly, to see me lead an Ass along by me, and not ride!*

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*Of Death.*

---

ONE said to another who had a very narrow Mouth, *Questionless, when you die, your Soul will fly out at your Breech.*

A Gentleman

A Gentleman lying very sick a Bed, heard a passing Bell ring out, and said unto his Physician, *Tell me, Doctor, is yonder Musick for my Dancing?*

A Gentleman lying sick at a Manor-House of his call'd *Pond*, would needs be removed thence to another House, which he had four or five Miles off; and, being asked why he so desir'd Change? He answered, *Because I list not to die like a Fish in a Pond.*

A *Spanish* Earl was a great Swearer, and hunting one Day in a Forest, and having lost his Company, ranging up and down in the Dark, chanced to fall Horse and all into a very deep Pit, where he remained all that Night, not forgetting in the mean Time to bethink himself of a many good Thoughts; and namely, among the rest, he was right penitent of his Sin in Swearing; vowing, that if he ever got out of that Pickle, he would never, whilst he liv'd, swear more. By Chance his Spaniel being with him when he fell, would not depart from the Place, but there remained bawling and howling all the while, 'till at last certain Passengers travelling that Way the next Morning, and over-hearing the Dog's piteous Clamour,

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Clamour, made to the Place, and there looking down into the Pit, espy'd the Earl. With such Tackle as they had about them they drew him up, and set him on firm Ground. Then he looking down into the Hole, to see how deeply he had fallen, and seeing it very deep, said, *Gad's Nouns, is this a fit Place for a Nobleman to fall into!*

One telling a virtuous Gentlewoman, *That her Picture was broken.* She answered, *Then is but the Shadow of a Shadow gone.*

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